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BICENTENNIAL EDITION

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

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1745–1799

Prepared under the direction of the UNITED STATES
GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
and published by authority of CONGRESS

JOHN C. FITZPATRICK, *Editor*

Volume 31

January 22, 1790–March 9, 1792

United States
Government Printing Office
Washington

WH

General
June 10, 1942

PRINTED
AUGUST, 1939

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THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

To GOVERNOR BEVERLEY RANDOLPH

New York, January 22, 1790.

Sir: As it is of considerable consequence to the Public that a letter which I have just written to Mr. Jefferson should reach him at as early a period as may be, and as I am unacquainted with any other certain channel of conveyance, I have taken the liberty of enclosing it to your Excellency. The importance of having it delivered to him with certainty and expedition, I hope will be considered as an apology for the trouble which may be occasioned by this measure. And even for the farther favor I am about to ask, of having it dispathed [*sic*] by a particular Messenger; in case no opportunity (that might with safety be depended upon) should present itself, of forwarding it in a short time from Richmond to Montecello. With sentiments of esteem, I have the honor etc.[1] [V.S.L.]

To EBENEZER TUCKER[2]

New York, January 24, 1790.

Sir: Captain Burnett delivered me your letter of the 18. instant, and is so obliging as to take charge of this answer.

It is my sincere opinion that the land mentioned in it[3] is worth what I asked for it, to wit four dollars per acre, and once

[1] In the writing of David Humphreys.
[2] Of Little Egg Harbor, N. J.
[3] In Washington County, Pa.

would have sold for it; but, if, in the present scarcity of cash it will not fetch that sum, let those, who are really inclinable to buy, come forward, like men that are in earnest, and say what they will give. If they, or their Agent have seen the land, (and without this it is useless to name any price) have examined its qualities and improvements, they can tell what they will give, and ought to act like fair and candid men. On these terms I am ready to treat with them. It is not my intention to dispose of the land for a song, nor is it my wish to higgle, or make many words to the bargain; for which reason I pray them to come to a decision at once, and that you would inform me of the result. At any rate it would be well for you to write to me, and soon, that I may not miss any other offer, should any be made to, Sir, etc.[4]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH WILLARD

New York, January 24, 1790.

Sir: I have been favored with the receipt of your letter of the first instant.[5] As no determination has yet been taken with respect to the erection of Hospitals for the reception of sick and disabled Seamen, the object to which your request relates is not before me.

At present I can only repeat the assurances, formerly given, that every thing in my power will be done, consistent with propriety, to promote the wishes of your learned Body on this subject. You will allow me, at the same time, to observe, that it might be well to make their wishes on this head known to the Gentlemen, who are in Congress, from the State of Massachusetts. With great regard, I am etc.[4]

[4] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[5] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

To CHIEF JUSTICE THOMAS McKEAN[6]

New York, January 24, 1790.

Sir: I have been favored with the receipt of your letter of the 17th. instant together with its enclosure.[7]

As no determination has yet been taken respecting the erection of Hospitals for the reception of sick and disabled seamen, the object, to which your letter relates is not before me, and, as I have undeviatingly considered freedom of choice, in all nominations to office, essential to the public service, I am persuaded you will have the goodness to excuse an adherence to that sentiment on the present occassion, which forbids any previous engagement, however satisfactory the pretensions of the Gentleman who wishes the appointment. I am etc.[8]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 25, 1790.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives: I have received from his Excellency John E. Howard, Governor of the State of Maryland, An Act of the Legislature of Maryland to ratify certain Articles in addition to, and amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America proposed by Congress to the Legislatures of the several States; and have directed my Secretary to lay a Copy of the same before you, together with the copy of a letter accompanying the above Act,

[6] Of Pennsylvania.

[7] McKean's letter, together with George Buchanan's application for appointment as physician of the marine hospital to be established at Baltimore, are in the *Applications for Office under Washington* in the Library of Congress.

[8] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

from his Excellency the Governor of Maryland to the President of the United States.

The originals will be deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State.[9]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 28, 1790.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives: I have directed my Secretary to lay before you the copy of an Act of the Legislature of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations entitled "an Act for calling a Convention to take into consideration the Constitution proposed for the United States, passed on the 17th. day of September A. D. 1787. by the general Convention held at Philadelphia," together with a copy of a letter[10] accompanying said Act, from his Excellency John Collins Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, to the President of the United States.

The originals of the foregoing Act and Letter will be deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State.[9]

To GOVERNOR BEVERLEY RANDOLPH

United States, January 29, 1790.

Sir: I have been duly favored with your Excellency's letter of the 14th instant, enclosing General Wood's report respecting the materials which were placed upon Cape Henry by the States of Virginia and Maryland for the purpose of building a Light-house; and have put both the letter and report into the hands of

[9] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[10] This letter prayed "on behalf of the People of the said State for a further suspension of the operation of the Impost and Tonnage laws of the United States with respect to the State of Rhode Island."

the Secretary of the Treasury, who is authorized by Law "to provide by contract, which shall be approved by the President of the United States, for building a Light-house near the entrance of Chesapeake Bay." I have also directed him to write to your Excellency upon the subject, and to take such steps in the business as may tend to a speedy accomplishment of the desired object.

In the first place it will be necessary that a deed of cession of the land upon which the Light house is to be erected, should be executed from the State of Virginia to the United States; and when this is accomplished, as the building of the Light-house is to be done by contract, it is probable that the person or persons who may contract for the building of it, will make such agreement for the materials as to them shall seem proper; and in this case the expediency of their being purchased *immediately* by the United States will be superseded. I have the Honor etc.[11] [V.S.L.]

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, February 6, 1790.

Sir: In obedience to the command of the President of the United States, I have the honor to enclose you a Letter from Messrs. Beauregard and Bourgeois respecting certain Bills of Exchange bought in the year 1780 by Cadet Sardet of New Orleans from Oliver Pollock Esqr. Agent for the State of Virginia.

[11] In the writing of Tobias Lear.

On February 1 the President sent a brief message to the Senate and the House forwarding a copy of North Carolina's act of cession of certain western lands to the United States. The original was to be deposited in the Department of State, and with the deed of cession, Feb. 25, 1790, is now in the Library of Congress.

On February 4 Lear wrote to Jabez Bowen, by direction of the President, acknowledging the receipt of the resolve of the Rhode Island Legislature "requesting Congress to renew the indulgence before granted to the Navigation of that State . . . it is to be hoped that the adoption of the Constitution by the State of Rhode Island will, after this instance, render similar applications unnecessary from that State." Lear's letter is from a copy in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

The President of the United States wishes the opinion of the Attorney General of the United States upon the subject of the enclosed letter.[12] Whether it can be considered as in any manner relating to the General Government, or to the State of Virginia, or be viewed as a Mercantile transaction between two persons unconnected with the public. I have the honor etc.[13]

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, February 7, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have now before me your favors of the 24th. and 28th. Ulto. their contents I have observed.[14]

Major Washington has sent the following dimensions of the Bolting Cloth, viz "The length of the bolting Cloth *now* in the [reel] is 8 feet 3½ Inches; and the breadth 5 feet 7 Inches. The length of the Reel is 9 feet 6 Inches; and as Colo Biddle observes has the difference between the Cloth and Reel covered with course linnen."[15]

The President would wish you to get one of the best kind agreeable to the foregoing dimensions and send it to Mount Vernon by the earliest opportunity.

Whenever you may find it convenient to have the Presidents acct. drawn off from the last exhibit of it, I will thank you to send it to me. With very great esteem I am, etc.[13]

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[12] On February 16 Lear transmitted the report of the Attorney General on the matter to Toutant Beauregard and Bourgeois to Jabez Bowen. Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[13] This letter, signed "Tobias Lear," is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[14] Neither of these Biddle letters are now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[15] Lear had written Biddle (January 10) for "a superfine Bolting Cloth of the first quality, to suit a Reel whh. is nine [feet] two inches in length, and five feet six inches in circumference; you will be good enough to let the above mentioned Cloth be chosen by Mr. Lewis or a skillful miller." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book."

To WILLIAM CRAIK[16]

New York, February 8, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 25 of last month, and return you my thanks for your attention to my dispute with Stromat respecting the Proclamation warrant.

If Mr. Stromat will fulfil the offer of compromise in the manner he has proposed to you, or in such a manner as you, under the aid of Mr. Dunnington's information, (who is perfectly acquainted with all the land to which Stromat lays claim by virtue of his warrants) shall think will subserve my purposes, I would prefer it to a suit at law; by which I might *gain* or *lose* all. To prevent the injury which my tract would sustain by the intersection of it by the slipes Stromat was endeavoring to obtain, was my primary object, to attain which will satisfy me. If you could make it convenient to attend the survey it would enable you to decide on the *spot* with more propriety, and such a service would be very agreeable to me. Bind firmly whatever agreement you may make with Stromat without delay; that he is not punctilious in observing his word *I* know, and that he would deceive you, if he can gain any thing by it I have very little doubt. For your services in this business, and the ejectment of Perry, with the expences that have been incurred, I again pray you to apply to my Nephew, G. A. Washington, for payment. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.[17]

To THE SENATE

United States, February 9, 1790.

Gentlemen of the Senate: You will perceive from the papers herewith delivered, and which are enumerated in the annexed

[16] Of Port Tobacco, Md.

[17] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

list,[18] that a difference subsists between Great Britain and the United States relative to the boundary line between our Eastern, and their territories. A plan for deciding this difference was laid before the late Congress; and whether that or some other plan of the like kind, would not now be eligible, is submitted to your consideration.

In my opinion it is desireable that all questions between this and other nations be speedily and amicably settled; and in this instance I think it adviseable to postpone any negociations on the subject until I shall be informed of the result of your deliberations, and receive your advice as to the propositions most proper to be offered on the part of the United States.

As I am taking measures for learning the intentions of Great Britain respecting the detention of our Posts &ca., I am the more solicitous that the business now submitted to you may be prepared for negociation, as soon as the other important affairs which engage your attention, will permit.[19]

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, February 10, 1790.

Dear Sir: The President wishes to get a Carpet of the best kind for a Room 32 feet by 22. A Pea Green Ground, with white or light flowers or spots would suit the furniture of the Room, and Carpet as the former would be made to fit the Room exactly when it would be difficult to find one of the latter of the precise size; the length of the Room, *32 feet,* is the full extent, but at each end there is a fire place which projects into the room

[18] A list of these papers follows the copy of this message in the "Letter Book."

[19] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On February 9 Washington sent to the Senate nominations to fill various vacancies in the judiciary and customs branches of the Government, and also for customs officers for the districts in North Carolina. These names and the confirmations are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

perhaps 3½ or 4 feet including Hearths. We can get no Carpet in New York to suit the Room, nor Carpeting of the best kind. Scotch Carpeting is almost the only kind to be found here. If you would be so good as to inform me if anything of the above discription can be had in Philadelphia you will oblige me. The price is also necessary to be known. I am, etc.[20]

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

New York, February 11, 1790.

Sir: I have weighed with deliberate attention the contents of your letter of yesterday; and, altho' that consideration may result in an approbation of the ideas therein suggested; yet I do not, at present, feel myself authorized to give a sanction to the measures which you propose. For, as the Constitution of the United States, and the Laws made under it, must mark the line of my official conduct, I could not justify my taking a single step in any matter, which appeared to me to require their agency, without its being first obtained; and, so far as I have been able to form a judgment upon the objects held up to view in your letter, they cannot be effected without the operation of a Law.

As an Act must necessarily be passed to extend the Judicial Power of the United States to the State of North Carolina, it appears to me that a clause might be there introduced to establish that uniformity and precision in the business of the United States in each district, which you observe is highly proper to be effected, and to make such other regulations as may be thought necessary. I, however, only suggest this idea to you, that you may, if you think proper, mention it to such members of the Senate and House of Representatives as are acquainted with

[20] This letter, signed "Tobias Lear," is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

the subject, and thereby have the matter brought to view whenever the above mentioned Act shall be under consideration. I am, &c.[21]

To WILLIAM PACA

United States, February 13, 1790.

Sir: The appointment which you now hold as Judge of the United States in and for the district of Maryland, having been made during the Recess of the Senate of the United States, can endure no longer than to the end of their present Session; and a new Commission, specifying your appointment by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, will become necessary for your continuance in the discharge of the duties of that Office. This Commission I have now the pleasure to enclose, requesting that you will acknowledge the receipt of it as soon as it gets to your hands. I am etc.[22]

To JAMES IREDELL[23]

United States, February 13, 1790.

Sir: One of the Seats on the Bench of the Supreme Court of the United States having become vacant by the resignation of the Gentleman[24] appointed to fill the same; I have thought fit, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint you to that Office, and have now the pleasure to enclose you a Commission to be one of the Associate Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States.

You have, Sir, undoubtedly considered the high importance of a Judicial System in every civil Government, It may there-

[21] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[22] In an unidentified writing. The "Letter Book" copy contains the following note: "Copies of the above letter was transmitted to the Judges of the Districts of Virginia and South Carolina, and to Wm. Nelson, Attorney for the District of Virginia."

[23] Of North Carolina.

[24] Robert Hanson Harrison.

fore be unnecessary for me to say anything that would impress you with this idea in respect to ours. I must, however, observe, that, viewing, as I do, the Judicial System of the United States as one of the main Pillars on which our National Government must rest; it has been my great object to introduce into the high Offices of that department such Characters, as, from my own knowledge or the best information, I conceived would give dignity and stability to the Government, at the same time that they added lustre to our national Character. I have the honor etc, With due consideration Your etc.[25]

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, February 14, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favored with your two letters of the 9th and 10th. inst. the latter enclosing the Presidents acct. as it then stood with you.

In reply to your wish to know the Presidents birthday it will be sufficient to observe that it is on the 11th of February *Old Style;* but the almanack makers have generally set it down opposite to the 11th day of February of the present Style; how far that may go towards establishing it on that day I dont know; but I could never consider it any otherways than as stealing so many days from his valuable life as is the difference between the old and the new Style. With very sincere esteem etc.[26]

On February 13 Washington wrote a brief note to Attorney General Edmund Randolph, granting him leave to return to Virginia; "but hope that your absence from the Seat of Government will not exceed the time mentioned in your letter to me of the 5th instant." This note is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[25] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[26] This letter was signed "Tobias Lear," and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On February 15 the President, in a routine message to the Senate and House of Representatives, laid before them a copy of New Hampshire's ratification of the amendments to the Constitution. As the various States sent in their ratifications, the President sent copies of them in the same brief formal message to Congress. These messages are duly recorded, according to dates, in the "Letter Book."

To THE SENATE

United States, February 18, 1790.

Gentlemen of the Senate: By the Mail of last evening I received a letter from his Excellency John Hancock Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, enclosing a resolve of the Senate and House of Representatives of that Commonwealth and sundry documents relative to the eastern boundary of the United States.

I have directed a copy of the letter and resolve to be laid before you. The documents which accompanied them being but copies of some of the papers which were delivered to you with my communication of the ninth of this month, I have thought it unnecessary to lay them before you at this time. They will be deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State, together with the originals of the above mentioned letter and resolves.[27]

To JAMES MADISON

Sunday Morning [February 20, 1790].

My dear Sir: I return Mr. Jefferson's letter[28] with thanks for the perusal of it. I am glad he has resolved to accept the appointment of Secretary of State, but sorry it is so repugnant to his own inclinations, that it is done.[29]

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[27] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On February 18 the intendant and wardens of Charleston, S. C., delivered a congratulatory address to Washington, who answered it at some unknown date. Both address and the answer are recorded in the "Letter Book."

[28] To Madison of February 14. This letter is in the *Madison Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[29] The text is from the sales catalogue of the *Washington-Madison Papers*, McGuire Collection, 1892. (See Washington's letter to Thomas Jefferson, Jan. 21, 1790, *ante*.)

On February 20 Lear sent to the Chief Justice the petition of Mrs. Hammond, wife of Capt. Thomas Hammond, of New York City, who had been captured by a British frigate and imprisoned in St. Jago, "requesting that you will (as matters of this nature have hitherto come under your consideration) give your opinion to the President

To SAMUEL POWEL

New York, February 21, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of a letter which you have been so good as to write to me by the direction of the Philadelphia Society for promoting agriculture, and I beg leave to request your communication of my thanks to the Society for their polite attention, in the present which accompanied it.

Among the advantages resulting from this Institution, it is particularly pleasing to observe that a spirit of emulation has been excited by the rewards offered to excellence in the several branches of rural œconomy, and I think there is every reason to hope the continuance of those beneficial consequences from such well judged liberality.

As no one delights more than I do in the objects of your Institution, so no one experiences more real pleasure from every proof of their progress, among which it marks the discernment of the society to have distinguished Mr. Mathewson's[30] improvement in the useful art of making cheese.

With sincere wishes for the advancement of our agricultural interests, and, with great regard etc.[31]

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

United States, February 22, 1790.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's letter of the 10th instant enclosing a Resolve of the Senate and House of

upon this subject respecting the steps which he should take in it. As the wife and friends of Captain Hammond are in great distress, a speedy operation, if any thing is to be done in the case will be peculiarly grateful to them." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[30] John Matthewson, of Rhode Island.

[31] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and sundry documents relative to the Eastern boundary of the United States.

Previous to the receipt of your Excellency's letter, I had laid this subject before the Senate of the United States[32] for their consideration, with such documents respecting it as had been transmitted to the former Congress from the State of Massachusetts: to these I added your letter and the Resolve immediately upon their getting to my hands. I have the honor etc.[33]

To ELIJAH HUNTER

February 25, 1790.

Sir: I have received your letter of yesterday with its enclosures, which are herewith returned. The Gentleman who delivered my message to you, which you say was given in answer to your former letter, mistook the purport of it. It was not your person, or character I had forgotten, but the transactions in detail to which you alluded.

It is not possible for me, with any degree of propriety, to tread back ground I passed over seven years ago, when no application has been made to me in all that time: and when my accounts with the public closed with the resignation of my Commission, especially too, as it appears by the papers handed to me, that you have been paid, agreeable to your own charge, for the services you are *now* desirous of bringing again to view. To obtain which appears to have been the design of the Certificates adduced. The effect of which, to the best of my recollection, was the kind of reward you seemed, at that time, to have had in contemplation. As you were employ'd principally by, or thro',

[32] See Washington's message to the Senate, Feb. 18, 1790, *ante*.
[33] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

General McDougall, who, I well remember, had two hundred Guineas put into his hands, with which to pay those who were used as secret Agents, I always supposed (if more than recommending you to the State of New York, which seemed to be your great if not only object, was expected) that this money, or a part thereof, would be applied.

From this view of the matter you will readily see that I cannot take any other steps in it than what have been already effected. I am etc.[34]

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

New York, March 1, 1790.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you, dated the 13 of October, I have removed to a larger house (the one lately occupied by the Count de Moustier), enlarged my table, and of course my Guests; let me therefore request the favor of you to add two pieces to the number of plateaux required in the above letter, and ornaments equivalent, for it will take these *in addition* to what I before asked, to decorate the present Table.

I would thank you also for sending to me at the same time fourteen (of what I believe are called) Patent lamps, similar to those used at Mr. R. Morris's, but less costly, two or at most three guineas a piece, will fully answer my purposes. Along with these, but of a more ordinary sort (say at about one guinea each), I should be glad to receive a dozen other patent lamps for the Hall, Entries, and Stairs of my house. These lamps, it is said, consume their own smoke, do no injury to furniture, give more light, and are cheaper than candles. Order a sufficiency of spare glasses and an abundance of wicks.

[34] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On February 28 Lear wrote to Daniel Grant, of Baltimore, to know if "a complete cook" could be obtained for the President's family. Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

If I had not in my former letter on this subject offered reasons accompanied with an apology for giving you so much trouble, I would, to keep up the custom, do it now, although I persuade myself you had rather comply with my request than be troubled with the best apology I could make for giving it.

Being well persuaded that you are regularly informed of the proceedings of the second Session of Congress, the disposition of that body, so far as it has been developed, and of the general complexion of our public affairs, I shall not trouble you with a repetition; but shall with much truth assure you that I am etc.[35]

To WARNER LEWIS

New York, March 5, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 18 of last month, enclosing the copy of one dated the 26 of October came duly to hand. The best, indeed the only apology I can make for suffering the latter to remain so long unacknowledged, is, that on my return from

[35] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On March 1 Washington wrote to Wakelin Welch concerning payment for the articles mentioned. This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On March 1 Lear wrote, by direction of the President, to Gov. Mor: Anseto Antone Freatz, of St. Jago, Cape Verde Islands, informing him of the capture of the American sloop *Brothers* by the British frigate *Pomona,* and the captain, Thomas Hammond, pilot, and crew imprisoned. The reason for the seizure was that dollars were found on the sloop which were said to have been taken from wrecks on a reef near Bonavista Island. The President asked to be informed in the matter. Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On March 4 the Society of Free Quakers, meeting in Philadelphia, delivered a complimentary address to Washington to which he replied at some unknown date. This reply, along with the address, is entered in the "Letter Book." In it Washington wrote: "Having always considered the conscientious scruples of religious belief as resting entirely with the sects that profess, or the individuals who entertain them, I cannot, consistent with this uniform sentiment, otherwise notice the circumstances referred to in your address, than by adding the tribute of my acknowledgement to that of our country, for those services which the members of your particular community rendered to the common cause in the course of our revolution. And by assuring you that, as our present government was instituted with an express view to general happiness, it will be my earnest endeavor, in discharging the duties confided to me with faithful impartiality, to raise the hope of common protection which you expect from the measures of that government."

a tour through the eastern States in November, I found such a multiplicity of public letters and other papers, which required to be acted upon, that those of private concern were laid aside, and in a manner forgotten before they could again be brought into view.

I shall now, though I feel myself unable to give such answers to the queries of Mr. Nicholson, with respect to my land in Gloucester county, as will be perfectly satisfactory to myself, say enough to enable *him* to decide for *himself*.

The Gentleman of whom it was bought valued it (as I believe you have been informed) at £1000; but for particular reasons agreed to take £800. Whether from any favorable change of circumstances it would sell for more now I know not. Less than £800 with interest thereon from the time it ceased to produce it to me in consequence of the transfer, together with the taxes which have arisen since, and the charges of alienation, I would not take even if the whole sum should be paid down, which indeed would be by far the most pleasing mode of disposing of it, but as a purchase on these terms does not appear to be the intention of Mr. Nicholson I will, in the next place, propose £400 in hand, with the incidental expences as before, and interest on the £800 during its suspension, and £500 payable at the expiration of 4 years without interest, provided it be paid within one month after it shall become due; if not, then with interest from the date of the bond. Or, lastly, I will take £1000 payable at the expiration of 4 years, without interest, if the whole of the purchase money be then punctually paid, otherwise to carry interest as above from the date. In this case, as in the last, the interest of the £800, with the charges, is to be paid up, the intention being not to *lose* by receiving *land* in place of *money* that was lent and bearing interest. As there are no buildings on the premises, I had rather sell than rent, Indeed I prefer

the former at any rate having found, from experience, that estates at a distance plague more than they profit the Proprietors of them. With very great esteem etc.[36]

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, March 5, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letters of the 16th and 23d Ultimo. We are furnished with a Carpet for the Room which I had described to you; but are therefore no less obliged to you for the trouble you have had in making inquiries respecting it. The President will thank you to make an addition of two hundred Bushels to the quantity of Buckwheat which you have procured for him. It is probable that it can be carried to Virginia in bulk which will save the expence of Bags or barrels. Major Washington informed the President that Capt. Ellwood had told him that for the freight [of] a quantity, he would make bulk heads and carry it free from expence of bags or barrels, if this can be done it will be agreeable to the President as the number of bags which you have already are as many as will be useful, and barrels are of little or no use at Mount Vernon where they have always a number on hand. I am, etc.[37]

To GODDARD & ANGELL[38]

New York, March 6, 1790.

Gentlemen: You will be pleased to insert the enclosed advertisement[39] in your paper for six weeks successively and charge

[36] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[37] This letter was signed "Tobias Lear," and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

[38] William Goddard and James Angell, publishers of *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser.*

[39] The advertisement was dated Mar. 1, 1790, and announced that "Royal Gift and the Knight of Malta will cover Mares and Jennets, at Mount-Vernon, the ensuing Season—Thereafter one of them will be removed from thence—The Price for Mares will

the same in your annual account with the President of the United States, which account you will be good enough to present whenever it becomes due. I am etc.[40]

To CHARLES CARTER

New York, March 8, 1790.

Dear Sir: Re-examining some letters, which in the hurry of business had been laid by, I find your favor of the 6 ultimo among them, and not being able to recollect whether I gave it an answer in the order of its date, I now inform you that it will be quite agreeable to me that you should have my lots in Fredericksburg for the sum, and on the terms of payment communicated by you through Colo. Ball. And I hope according to the intimation, there given, that they are now in your occupancy.

I will at any time make deeds of transfer. Present my love to Mrs. Carter and my Sister, in which Mrs. Washington joins me. With great esteem etc.[41]

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be *Ten Dollars, Half a Dollar* per Week for Pasturage, and *Two and Six Pence* to the Groom; and for Jennets *Three Guineas,* and *Two and Six Pence*. No Charge will be made for Pasturage of the latter, provided they are taken away by the first of August; but if longer continued the above Price will be demanded thenceforward per Week. The Pasture and Fences are good, but no Warranty will be given against Escapes or Accidents. The Qualities and Sizes of these two Animals have been often described; it is only necessary, therefore, to add, that they have increased in Size since last Year. John Fairfax, Manager." This same advertisement was published in the *Virginia Gazette and Alexandria Advertiser* about the same period of time.

[40] This letter was signed "Tobias Lear," and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On March 6 Lear wrote to Col. Samuel Carleton, of Salem, Mass., that in answer to his letter of February 12, and by command of the President, he is informed that it is out of the line of the President's official duty "to take any part in the settlement of accounts; and altho he sympathizes with those who still feel the distresses occasioned by the late war particularly where they were brought on by their exertions in behalf of their country; and would experience a singular happiness in knowing that their losses were retrieved and sufferings were at an end; yet the impropriety of his interfering in any degree with the claims of Individuals upon the public is too obvious to escape observation, to say nothing of the impracticability of his attending to all the applications which would appear equally meritorious." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[41] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

United States, March 8, 1790.

Sir: I have taken into consideration your letter of the 15 of last month,[42] and I approve of the proposals therein suggested, of endeavoring to avoid a War with the Creek nation of Indians.

I approve particularly of your requesting Mr. Hawkins[43] to send the letter to Alexander McGillivray a copy of which you have enclosed, and I authorize you to employ a suitable person to conduct the business, and to pay him, and the expenditures proposed.

I will sign a Passport[44] for such of the Chiefs of the Creek Nation as may desire to repair to the seat of the General Government on the business of their Nation. I am etc.[45]

PASSPORT

City of New York, March 11, 1790.

Whereas it has been represented to me that Colonel Alexander McGillivray and several other principal Chiefs, Head Men, and Warriors of the Creek Nation of Indians, may be desirous of repairing to the residence of the General Government for the purpose of forming treaties of amity with the United States. Now therefore know ye, that to facilitate so humane an object, I have granted this Passport for the protection and security of said Cheifs who shall accompany the bearer Colonel Marinus Willet or such persons as he, in case of sickness may authorize for the purposes herein specified. And I require all officers civil, and

[42] A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers* under date of March 6.

[43] Benjamin Hawkins.

[44] See Passport, Mar. 11, 1790, *post.*

[45] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

military of the United States, or of the respective States, and all good citizens thereof, to protect and assist such Cheifs aforesaid as shall accompany the said Colonel Marinus Willet, or the person authorized by him as aforesaid. And I do hereby forbid, any officers civil or military, or any of the Citizens aforesaid from attempting or performing any injury of any sort to the said Cheifs, Head Men, and Warriors protected as aforesaid, as they would answer the same at their peril.[46]

To PRESIDENT THOMAS MIFFLIN

United States, March 15, 1790.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of the 10th inst enclosing a letter addressed to the Executive of the State of Pennsylvania by several very respectable Inhabitants of the County of Washington representing the mischiefs which have been done for several years past in that County by the Indians, expressing their apprehensions of further interruption, and requesting the Interposition of Council with the President of the United States in behalf of the Inhabitants of Washington County. I have already laid before Congress all such papers and official information as have come to my hands, respecting depredations which have been committed on the Southern and Western frontiers of the United States. In a word, I have exhibited to them everything in my possession that can bring to their view the situation of our affairs in those parts. This communication from your Excellency shall be added thereto. And when Congress have duly considered the situation of our frontiers, and shall make such provision for their Defence and protection as the nature of the case seems to require, and circumstances

[46] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

will permit, there will be no delay in carrying such measures into effect as shall operate in a general and systematical manner.

I have the honor etc.[47]

To GOVERNOR BEVERLEY RANDOLPH

United States, March 20, 1790.

Sir: Your Excellency's letter of the 10th inst.; with its enclosures has been duly received.

It appears from the best information which I can obtain, that the place where Piamingo's Amunition was deposited, at the time of Colo. Campbell's writing to the Executive of Virginia, is not such as to subject it to the danger which was apprehended; for the vicinity is pretty well inhabited, and the people thereof knowing that their tranquility might in a great measure depend upon the security of that amunition, would not tamely permit it to be carried off until Piamingo shd. return with the detachment of his own Warriors, which it seems he had gone for to guard it to the Chickasaw Towns. And if this was not the case, it is highly probable, that if the capture of it was premedi-

[47] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On March 15, according to *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser,* a committee of Roman Catholics waited upon the President with a congratulatory address, to which the President replied. Washington said, in part:

"I feel, that my conduct in war and in peace has met with more general approbation than could reasonably have been expected: and I find myself disposed to consider that fortunate circumstance, in a great degree, resulting from the able support and extraordinary candor of my fellow-citizens of all denominations. . . .

". . . As mankind become more liberal, they will be more apt to allow, that all those, who conduct themselves as worthy members of the community are equally entitled to the protection of civil government. I hope ever to see America among the foremost nations in examples of justice and liberality. And I presume, that your fellow-citizens will not forget the patriotic part, which you took in the accomplishment of their revolution, and the establishment of their government; or the important assistance, which they received, from a Nation in which the roman catholic religion is professed . . . may the members of your Society in America, animated alone by the pure spirit of christianity, and still conducting themselves as the faithful subjects of our free government, enjoy every temporal and spiritual felicity."

Both the address and the reply are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

tated, it would be attempted before any communications could reach the spot from this place; the opinion, therefore, which you gave in your answer to Colo. Campbell, with respect to "the inhabitants embodying themselves as voluntiers for the protections of the property of our Allies" meets my approbation. If, however, it shoud be found, contrary to the information before stated, that the place in which the Amunition is lodged, is not sufficiently secure, or if Piamingo should not arrive in season with the guard; I think it would be advisable to have it removed to the nearest settlement that could give it perfect security. I have the honor etc.[48]

To BARON POELLNITZ

New York, March 23, 1790.

Sir: I received a few days ago your letter on the subject of establishing a farm under the public patronage for the purpose of encreasing and extending agricultural knowledge; in answer to which, I have only leisure to make the following general observations. As I have passed a considerable portion of my life very satisfactorily in the business of agriculture, it will be understood, that I am alike fond of it on individual account, and on account of its public emoluments. But, however convinced I am of the great advantages to be derived to the Community from improvements in it, however susceptible of improvements I consider the present state of farming in this Country, and however desirous I am of seeing these improvements take place immediately, yet, in my public capacity, I know not whether I can with propriety do any thing more at present, than what I have already done. I have brought the subject in my speech, at the opening of the present Session of Congress, before the

[48] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

national Legislature. It rests with them to decide what measures ought afterwards to be adopted for promoting the success of the great objects, which I have recommended to their attention. I can only say further, that whatever wise and prudent plans may be deemed most feasible and effectual (as being clearly within the functions and abilities of the general Government) will meet with my ready and hearty concurrence.

Since the Seat of Government of the United States is not yet determined, and since the subject of Finance has not yet received such a form as may justify any considerable new expenditures, it is hardly probable that Congress could enter deeply into the discussion of your meditated improvements in agriculture, during their actual Session. But, I request, Sir, you will be persuaded, that, at all events, I have a proper sense of your zeal in this matter, that I have great confidence in your ability, and ardent wishes for your success; being with due consideration, Sir, &c.[49]

*To DAVID STUART

New York, March 23, 1790.

Dear Sir: The only answer I can give to your letter of the 11th. Instt. is, that under my present view of the subject, the agreement you have entered into with Mr. Robt. Alexander had better be carried into effect. But I must declare to you at the sametime, that from my imperfect knowledge of the original bargain, of the proceedings which have been had under it, and of the points on which the dispute between Mr. Custis and Mr. Alexander have turned, that I feel an incompetency, and of course an unwillingness to give a final opinion thereof, without further information.

[49] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

All I recollect of this business is, that the former was to have given the latter the sum of (I believe) £12,000 for the Mansion-house tract; to be paid as Mr. Alexander says, with compound interest at the expiration of (I think) 24 years, or, according to Mr. Custis's ideas, *on* or *before* the expiration of *that* period. This difference of opinion has given rise, it seems, to the dispute now subsisting; a highly important one indeed it is, and very interesting in its decision to both parties; but how it came to pass that there should be this difference of opinion on a point which might, I should suppose, be decided by resorting to written documents, I am at a loss to discover; nor am I better informed with respect to the kind of money in which the payment was to have been made; and yet, as in the last case, one would think this also might be determined by the plainest construction of the Instruments, or by such oral testimony as could be adduced in explanation of the words, if they are found to be ambiguous.

With respect to the first point, if it was optional in Mr. Custis to pay *on* or *before* the expiration of the term, on what ground did Mr. Alexander refuse to receive payment? And if the payment was not to be made in Specie (by agreement) why was any medium that was currt. at the time, refused? The great nominal sum which was to be given for the land, is, to my mind, an unequivocal proof (if nothing is expressed to the contrary) that both parties were Speculating in paper; for the one never could have had the conscience to ask or the other the folly to have given £12,000 specie for it.

If my comprehension of this matter (as here stated) is not right, I wish to be set right. If it is, I could wish, before I give any conclusive opinion, to receive information on the following points.

First. What are the opinions of those who have been consulted, with respect to the option, claimed by Mr. Custis, to pay *on* or *before* the expiration of the term of 24 years?

Second. Whether in the Articles of agreement, Mortgage, bond, or other evidence, there is an exception of Paper Money, or proviso to pay in any other sort?

Third. At what period was the agreement made? How long after this agreement was the deed dated? and what was the Continental and State Scale of depreciation, at both those periods?

Fourth. In what sort of paper money was the tender made, and how long after the date of the Deed was it, before it was made? Why in the opinion of your Lawyers, was not *that* paper a legal tender? Was there any other Paper money in being at that time which would have been? and why, unless emitted by the State, and made tenderable by law? In that case, why was not such money tendered?

After the solution of these several questions I shall be able to decide with much more satisfaction to myself than at the present moment, whether it will be best to give £600 to annul the bargain, Pay rent (but this is just), and sustain the loss of the sums which went to procure the money tendered, or hazard a decision in the high Court of Chancery; by which the whole Sum, of £12,000 with interest might be decreed, if not Scaled, according to the opinion of the Lawyers on the one side, or the other, agreeably to your statement thereof.

My best wishes, in which Mrs. Washington and the Children unite are presented to Mrs. Stuart and yourself and family. With much truth I am etc.[50]

[50] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

To STEPHEN STEWART[51]

New York, March 25, 1790.

Sir: You will receive with this a medal struck by order of the late Congress in commemoration of the much approved conduct of your Son (the late Colo. John Stewart) in the assault of Stoney Point, and was to have been presented to him as a mark of the high sense which his Country entertained of his services on that occasion.

This Medal was put into my hands by Mr. Jefferson and it is with singular pleasure that I now transmit it to you, as it must afford some pleasing consolation, when reflecting upon the loss of a worthy Son. I am etc.[52]

To ANTHONY WAYNE

New York, March 25, 1790.

Sir: You will receive with this a Medal struck by order of the late Congress in commemoration of your much approved conduct in the assault of Stoney Point, and presented to you as a mark of the high sense which your Country entertains of your services on that occasion.

This Medal was put into my hands by Mr. Jefferson, and it is with singular pleasure that I now transmit it to you. I am etc.[53]

P. S. I embrace this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st of February which reached my hands a few days since.[52]

[51] Of Annapolis, Md.

[52] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[53] The "Letter Book" notes that "Copies of the above letter" (minus, of course, the P. S.) "was transmitted to General Morgan of Virginia, Colo. Washington of South Carolina, and Governor Howard of Maryland, with their Medals, which was struck by order of the late Congress, in approbation of their conduct at the battle of the Cowpens."

To DAVID STUART

New York, March 28, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 15.[54] enclosing the act of Assembly authorising an agreement with Mr. Alexander came to my hand in the moment my last to you was dispatched.

I am sorry such jealousies as you speak of should be gaining ground, and are poisoning the minds of the southern people; but admit the fact which is alledged as the cause of them, and give it full scope, does it amount to more than what was known to every man of information before, at, and since the adoption of the Constitution? Was it not always believed that there are some points which peculiarly interest the eastern States? and did any One, who reads human nature, and more especially the character of the eastern people conceive that they would not pursue them steadily by a combination of their force. Are there not other points which equally concern the southern States? If these States are less tenacious of their interest, or, if whilst the

[54] Stuart had written (March 15): "A spirit of jealousy which may become dangerous to the Union, towards the Eastern States, seems to be growing fast among us. It is represented, that the Northern phalanx is so firmly united, as to bear down all opposition, while Virginia is unsupported, even by those whose interests are similar to hers. It is the language of all, I have seen on their return from New York. Coll: Lee tells me, that many who were warm Supporters of the government, are changing their sentiments, from a conviction of the impracticability of Union with States, whose interests are so dissimilar to those of Virginia. I fear the Coll: is one of the number. The late applications to Congress, respecting the slaves, will certainly tend to promote this spirit. It gives particular umbrage, that the Quakers should be so busy in this business. That they will raise up a storm against themselves, appears to me very certain. Mr. Maddison's sentiments are variously spoke of, so much so; that it is impossible to ascertain whether they are approved of by a majority or not. The Commercial and most noisy part, is certainly against them. It appears to me, to be such a deviation from the plain and beaten track, as must make every Creditor of the Public tremble; His plan of discrimination, is founded too much on principles of equity, to please even those, who have advocated allways a discrimination. If the Public was to gain, what the original holders lost in their sales, I believe it would have pleased this description of Citizens better." Stuart's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

eastern move in a solid phalanx to effect their views, the southern are always divided, which of the two is most to be blamed? That there is a diversity of interests in the Union none has denied. That this is the case also in every State is equally certain. And that it even extends to the Counties of individual States can be as readily proved. Instance the southern and northern parts of Virginia, the upper and lower parts of south Carolina, &ca. have not the interests of these always been at variance? Witness the County of Fairfax, have not the interests of the people of that County varied, or the Inhabitants been taught to believe so? These are well known truths, and yet it did not follow that separation was to result from the disagreement.

To constitute a dispute there must be two parties. To understand it well both parties and all the circumstances must be fully heard, and to accommodate differences, temper and mutual forbearance are requisite. Common danger brought the States into confederacy, and on their union our safety and importance depend. A spirit of accommodation was the basis of the present constitution, can it be expected then that the Southern or the Eastern part of the Empire will succeed in all their measures? certainly not; but I will readily grant that more points will be carried by the latter than the former, and for the reason which has been mentioned, namely, that in all great national questions they move in unison whilst the others are divided; but I ask again which is most blame-worthy, those who see, and will steadily pursue their interest, or those who cannot see, or seeing will not act wisely? And I will ask another question, of the highest magnitude in my mind, to wit, if the eastern and northern States are dangerous *in Union*, will they be less so in separation? If self interest is their governing principle will it forsake them or be less restrained by such an event? I hardly think

it would. Then, independent, of other considerations what would Virginia (and such other States as might be inclined to join her) gain by a separation? Would they not, most unquestionably, be the weaker party?

Men who go from hence without feeling themselves of so much consequence as they wished to be considered, and disappointed expectants, added to malignant, designing characters, who miss no opportunity of aiming a blow at the Constitution, paint highly on one side without bringing into view the arguments which are offered on the other.

It is to be lamented that the Editors of the different Gazettes in the Union, do not more generally, and more correctly (instead of stuffing their papers with scurrility, and nonsensical declamation, which few would read if they were apprised of the contents) publish the debates in Congress on all great national questions, and this with no uncommon pains, everyone of them might do. The principles upon which the difference of opinion arises, as well as the decisions would then come fully before the public, and afford the best data for its judgment. Mr. Madison, on the question of discrimination, was actuated, I am convinced, by the purest motives, and most heartfelt conviction; but the subject was delicate, and perhaps had better never been stirred.

The assumption of the State debts by the United States is another subject that has given rise to long and labored debates, without having yet taken a final form.

The memorial of the Quakers [55] (and a very mal-apropos one it was) has at length been put to sleep, and will scarcely awake before the year 1808. I am etc.[56]

[55] For the abolition of the slave trade.
[56] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

United States, March 31, 1790.

The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorised to negotiate and agree for a Loan to the United States to an amount not exceeding one hundred thousand Dollars, bearing an Interest not exceeding six pr. Cent pr. annum to be applied towards carrying into effect the appropriations made by the Act Entitled, "An Act making appropriations for the support of Government for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety." And according to the annexed representation.[57]

To THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

New York, April 3, 1790.

Gentlemen: I have always been persuaded that the stability and success of the national Government, and consequently the happiness of the People of the United States, would depend in a considerable degree on the Interpretation and Execution of its Laws. In my opinion, therefore, it is important, that the Judiciary System should not only be independent in its operations, but as perfect as possible in its formation.

As you are about to commence your first Circuit, and many things may occur in such an unexplored field, which it would be useful should be known; I think it proper to acquaint you,

[57] The "representation" was a memorandum from Secretary Hamilton, which is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers* immediately preceding the authorization. This letter, also, is in the "Letter Book." The numerous authorizations of this character, from the President to the Secretary of the Treasury, during Washington's administrations, have, hereafter, been omitted except where the appropriation authorized was of more than routine importance.

that it will be agreeable to me to receive such Information and Remarks on this Subject, as you shall from time to time judge expedient to communicate. I have the honor &c.[58]

To THE KING OF FRANCE

City of New York, April 6, 1790.

Very great and good Friend and Ally: As the time limited for the duration of Mr. Jefferson's residence in quality of our Minister Plenipotentiary near your Majesty will shortly expire, and the public interests require that he should undertake other functions, we have directed him to take leave of your Majesty, and to assure you of our friendship and sincere desire to preserve and strengthen the harmony and confidence which so happily subsists between the two nations.

We are persuaded that he will do this in the manner most expressive of these sentiments, and of the respect and sincerity with which they are offered.

We pray God to keep your Majesty under his holy protection.[58]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

United States, April 7, 1790.

Sir: The papers which you yesterday submitted to me, respecting the arrangement of the three companies to be sent to Georgia, and the Instructions to be given to their Captains, have been duly considered, and meet my approbation.

The proposed disposition of the said companies after their arrival in Georgia.

To Wit—"One company at the St. Mary's; One ditto at Beards Bluff on the Altamaha; One Ditto at the Rock-Landing on the

[58] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. No reply to this letter is now found in the *Washington Papers;* but the text of it is printed in the *Congressional Record* for Feb. 26, 1937, p. 1647, where it is undated and no source given. In the *Life and Correspondence of James Iredell* (vol. 2, p. 293) is printed Jay's letter, dated Sept. 15, 1790, inclosing the draft of the answer to Washington's letter.

Oconee;" appears from the Maps and information to be the best. In fortifying or constructing such works as may be necessary for the defence and security of the Troops, I would have it impressed upon the commanding Officer [to make the Area sufficiently large within the] pallisadoes to admit of building all the Barracks and houses of every kind; for experience has strongly shewn the utility of this mode where you have to contend with an Indian Enemy. Yours etc.[59]

To DANIEL GRANT

New York, April 8, 1790.

Sir: I have been duly favored with your letter of the 7 of March, and should have given it an earlier acknowledgment had I received an answer from Mr. Moyston of Philada. to whom I wrote upon receiving your letter to know the character and qualifications of the Cook whom you mentioned, as you informed me that he had lived with him several years. Not having received the information of which I expected from Mr. Moyston, and daily experiencing the inconvenience of wanting an established and good Cook in the family. The President has again directed me to write to you upon the subject, requesting that you will be so good as to learn from the Man whom you mentioned the precise terms upon which he would engage to come into this family, what he expects or wishes to do with his wife and Children if he should come, and to let me know your opinion respecting the mans qualifications as a Cook, and his dispositions as a domestic, for the great confidence will be placed in your character of him.

The highest wages we have given for the best Cook (and I am informed that none higher have been given in this place) is

[59] In the writing of Tobias Lear. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

twelve dollars p month with his washing, lodging &ca. I mention this circumstance that if the man should think of making an extravagant demand to serve in the *President's* family, he may know what has been given.

Your attention to this matter, as soon as convenient, will oblige the President, and upon receiving your letter, an immediate and decisive answer will be given thereto. With my best thanks for your trouble in this business I am etc.[60]

P. S. The duties of a Cook are far from being hard or complicated, for we entertain company but seldom, and that regularly. You will please to put your letter to me, unsealed, under a cover to the President of the United States, as it is possible I shall be absent from this place when it arrives. The enclosed you will be so good as to hand to Messrs. Goddard and Angell.[61]

To PAUL ZANTZINGER AND ADAM REIGART

New York, April 10, 1790.

Gentlemen: Colonel Hartley has put into my hands the account of the mares, which you have been so obliging as to purchase for me, and I have paid to that Gentleman the balance due upon your account. I have received from my nephew, Major Washington, information of the safe arrival of all the Mares at Mount Vernon, and he appears to be much pleased with them.

When I expressed to Colonel Hartley my wish to procure a number of mares for breeding from your quarter, I fully expected to compensate the trouble of the person who might

[60] The letter was signed "Tobias Lear," and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[61] Lear's letter to Goddard and Angell inquired about the advertisement of Royal Gift and the Knight of Malta, which then (April 8) had not yet appeared in their papers.

On April 9 Washington issued a proclamation announcing the Consular Convention with France was in force. A contemporary copy of this proclamation is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

purchase them for me, by commission or otherwise. But, Gentlemen, your declining to accept any thing more than an indemnification for the cost and expence which attended the purchase of them, has added to the obligation which I feel for your having executed the commission in so satisfactory a manner, and I beg you to be assured that I have a proper sense of your politeness on this occasion. I am etc.[62]

*To DAVID STUART

New York, April 11, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have given my consent in the manner the law directs,[63] to the agreement you have made with Mr. Alexander; and, agreeably to your desire, have this day forwarded it under cover to Mr. Lund Washington; being persuaded, under the existing circumstances, it is better to do this than hazard a decision at Law; but it is a strange Affair!

I wrote to you a few days ago, and directed for you at Abingdon or Richmond; and hope, as it is to Williamsburgh you are going, that the letter came to hand before you set out. The question of Assumption[64] has not been taken yet; when decided, I wish it may be for the best; it has been fully, and I think ably discussed; but the Majority will be small on whichever side it happens; which, in questions of such magnitude, is to be regretted.

As this letter will have to travel to Williamsburgh, I shall take another opportunity to forward such original papers as you have transmitted to me. When you return, I should be glad to learn from you in what temper and state of politics you found

[62] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[63] The text of this consent, which is a mere formal wording, is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[64] The assumption of States Revolutionary War debts by the National Government.

the Country, such information would be *always* satisfactory; and *may be* very useful. I am etc.[65]

To ANTHONY WHITING

New York, April 14, 1790.

Sir: By a letter which I have lately received from my Nephew, Major Washington of Mount Vernon, I find you have made a tender of your services to him to overlook one of my farms, and have referred me to Colo. Cadwalader, now in Congress, for your qualifications and character.

This enquiry I have made, and the result of it is that you have a competent knowledge in the business of agriculture, and understand the economy of a farm. That he believes you to be industrious, and has no distrust of your honesty. These undoubtedly are very good and essential requisites in a Manager; but candor, he added, obliged him to inform me that he thought you were too much given to your pleasures, however of the impropriety of this he hoped and believed you were convinced, and of course would reform.

Under this information and persuation I am disposed to employ you on the terms mentioned by my Nephew, to wit, Forty guineas pr annum, and wish you to name the time, in a letter to me, that would be convenient for you to enter on the trust. I must inform you however that the present Managers are engaged till December, but Mr. Bloxham (having had notice that he would be continued no longer than the term for which he is engaged, and intending it is said when he quits my employ, to return to England) wishes I am informed to embark before that period. To this I shall have no objection if his place can be

[65] From the original in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

supplied, but not being well enough acquainted with all the circumstances relative to this matter, I can make no arrangement relative thereto until I hear first from you, and next from my Nephew with respect to Mr. Bloxham. After this matters may be precisely fixed so as to place all parties on a certainty.

The reason why I write to you from hence is that a Post goes directly from this city to Chestertown in Maryland (where my Nephew informs me you at present live) whereas a letter written from Mount Vernon might be long on its passage, or perhaps never get to you at all.

That there may be no delay in the business from a misconception of the terms on your part, or for want of knowing the expectations on mine, I have sketched articles of agreement[66] declaratory of both, which my Nephew will, on my behalf subscribe to, if the same is done by you.

From this communication (accompanied with an assurance that I shall make no alteration) you are enabled to say yea or nay to the proposals which I request may be done by letter addressed to me at this place, the result of which I shall communicate to my Nephew that he may know what to depend upon. If it is your determination to accept that he may know at what time (under the existing circumstances) he could receive you, of which I shall delay no time in giving you notice, and shall expect you will repair to Mount Vernon accordingly. I am etc.[67]

[66] These articles of agreement follow this letter in the "Letter Book," by which Whiting agrees "to serve the President of the United States as an Overlooker of one or more of his Farms belonging to the estate of Mount Vernon . . . using his best skill to carry into effect the present rotation system of cropping, practiced on the said Farms, or such other course as shall be approved of by the said President . . . but to make no actual change in the rotation system without permission as matters for sometime have been tending to the present mode and ought not to be departed from but under the fullest conviction of the superior advantages of another." The original agreement, signed by George Augustine Washington and Whiting, is dated May 20, 1790, and is in the *Washington Papers*. It contains a renewal (Aug. 8, 1790, to Dec. 25, 1791), and another (Aug. 15, 1791, to Dec. 25, 1792).

[67] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

New York, April 15, 1790.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you, dated March 1st. I have been favored with your letter of the 24 of January accompanied by the surtout of Plateaux &ca. These came very safe, are very elegant, much admired, and do great justice to your taste. Accept my thanks for the attention.

Upon trial it appears that they need no addition, the intention therefore of this letter is to counteract, if it should arrive in time, my request of the first of March of two Plateaux more and ornaments equivalent thereto, but to repeat the other wish contained therein namely "I would thank you &ca.", see paragraph respecting lamps.

Your not having acknowledged the receipt of my commission of a public nature that went from hence at the same time, and was of the same date with the letter, to which yours of the 24. of January is an answer, to wit the 13 of October, gives me some pain, lest it should have been arrested on its passage.

With great and sincere esteem etc.[68]

To CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY

New York, April 26, 1790.

Dear Sir: I comply with your wishes in giving letters introductory of your Nephew[69] to several Gentlemen in France and Spain.[70] They are under flying seals, but, as I mean letters of this

[68] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On the morning of April 20 Washington started what he called a tour of Long Island. Crossing to Brooklyn, he drove to Gravesend, thence as far east as Brookhaven township, Coram, and Setauket. He returned to New York on April 24.

[69] Daniel Horry.

[70] On April 26 Washington wrote letters of introduction for Horry to William Carmichael, William Short, Lafayette, and Rochambeau. These letters are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers;* that to Rochambeau is in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

sort shall be rare, I pray you to close them before they go out of your hands, lest the indiscretions of youth should make an improper use of them before they are delivered to their address.

Wishing the young Gentleman success, and yourself health and happiness. I remain etc.[71]

To MARQUIS DE LA LUZERNE[72]

New York, April 29, 1790.

Sir: Your letter of the 17th of January, replete with politeness to myself and useful informations respecting public affairs, has but lately been received.

In making my acknowledgments for the distinguished place I hold in your remembrance, and for the obliging terms in which you allude to my conduct in War and peace; I should do injustice to conceal the favorable sentiments, which were always entertained by myself and my Countrymen of your private deportment, and ministerial agency, while you resided in America. Those times, in which we always found you a sincere friend, were truly times of peril and distress. Now our situation is indeed much more eligible, and our prospects perhaps as good as could reasonably have been expected. We are recovering slowly from the calamities and burdens with which we were almost overwhelmed by a long and expensive War. Our Crops the year past have been more abundant, and our markets much better than usual. These circumstances will assist in enabling our Citizens to extricate themselves from their private and public debts. I hope a disposition will be found to prevail among us, for doing justice (as far as the nature of the case will admit) to all who afforded us their assistance in the hour of adversity.

[71] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On April 27 Washington answered a congratulatory address from the General Assembly of Virginia, the original of which is in the Huntington Library.

[72] Luzerne had been raised to the rank of marquis and was then French Ambassador to England.

In the arrangement of such new and complicated business, as must inevitably come before our general Government, it is reasonably to be expected, that the proceedings will be slow. It is devoutly to be wished that they may terminate in such just and wise measures, as will fully establish our happiness at home and credit abroad. I am much pleased with the interest you take in our national reputation, and the information you give that our credit is becoming so respectable in Europe, under the influence of our new Government.

You are right in conceiving, that nothing can be indifferent to me, which regards the welfare of the French Nation. So far removed from that great Theatre of political action, and so little acquainted with many of the minute circumstances, which may induce important decisions, as I am; it would be imprudent for me to hazard opinions, which might possibly be unfounded. Indeed, the whole business is so extraordinary in its commencement, so wonderful in its progress and may be so stupendous in its consequences, that I am almost lost in the contemplation. Of one thing, however, you may rest perfectly assured, that nobody is more anxious for the happy issue of that business than I am; as nobody can wish more sincerely for the prosperity of the French Nation, than I do. Nor is it without the most sensible pleasure I learn, that our friend the Marquis de la Fayette, has, in acting the arduous part which has fallen to his share, conducted himself with so much wisdom and apparently to such general satisfaction.

We, at this great distance from the Northern parts of Europe, hear of Wars and rumors of Wars, as if they were the events or reports of another Planet. What changes the death of the Emperor will occasion in the other Cabinets of Europe, time is yet to inform us. A spirit for political improvements seems to be rapidly and extensively spreading through the European Countries. I shall rejoice in seeing the condition of the Human Race

happier than ever it has hitherto been. But I should be sorry to see, that those who are for prematurely accelerating those improvements, were making *more haste than good speed,* in their innovations. So much prudence, so much perseverance, so much disinterestedness and so much patriotism are necessary among the Leaders of a Nation, in order to promote the national felicity, that sometimes my fears nearly preponderate over my expectations. Better, however, will it be for me to leave such foreign matters to those, who are more competent to manage them: and to do as much good as I can in the little sphere where I am destined to move at present. With sentiments of the highest esteem etc.[73]

To RICHARD HARRISON[74]

United States, May 23, 1790.

Sir: It having been intimated to the President of the United States that the appointment of Consul for the Port of Cadiz[75]

[73] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

An interesting and informative letter from William Jackson to Clement Biddle should be quoted here. It is dated "New York, Wednesday noon May 2, 1790 . . . The inclosed letter, from Doctor Bard, to Doctor Jones, is transmitted to you with a view to ensure *secrecy, certainty,* and *dispatch* in the delivery of it. To relieve you from any extraordinary personal anxiety I am happy to inform you that the symptoms which attend the President's indisposition, are not threatening; but it has been thought the part of prudence to call upon Doctor Jones, in anticipation of any unfavorable change that *may* arise. I need not repeat to you the necessity of delivering the letter with *privacy,* and keeping the object of it a secret from every person: even Mrs Biddle. Doctor Jones may want your aid to accelerate his arrival at New York, and I am persuaded you will give him every assistance in your power. The Doctor's prudence will suggest the propriety of setting out as privately as possible; perhaps it may be well to assign a personal reason for visiting New York, or going into the Country." This letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and bears on the address sheet the following: "Coln Cummings And All the Rest of the proprietors is Requested to forward this without Delay J Cummns. Mr. Freskeck will take a Rect. & see if an answer is wanted. Jno. Cummings. recd. Thursday 13 May 10 ½ O'C A. M. Dr. J. set off at 1 O. C. same day."

On May 4 the triennial meeting of the State Societies of the Cincinnati at Philadelphia addressed a congratulatory address to Washington, to which he replied at some unknown date. His reply, together with the address, is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

[74] Of Alexandria, Va.

[75] Spain.

would be agreeable to you, and your having heretofore transacted the business of the United States in that place giving you good pretentions to that office; he has directed me to inform you that the appointment of Consuls for foreign Ports will probably come soon under his consideration, and he is therefore desirous of knowing your wishes on this head in Season. I am etc.

P. S. there is no Salary annexed to the Consulships from the United States.[76]

To THE SENATE

United States, May 31, 1790.

Gentlemen of the Senate: Mr. de Poirey served in the American Army for several of the last years of the late War as Secretary to Major General the Marquis de la Fayette, and might probably at that time have obtained the Commission of Captain from Congress upon application to that Body.[77] At present he is an Officer in the French national Guards and solicits a Brevet Commission from the United States of America. I am authorized to add that, while a compliance will involve no expence on our part, it will be particularly grateful to that friend of America the Marquis de la Fayette.

I therefore nominate Mr. de Poirey to be a Captain by Brevet.[78]

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[76] This letter was signed "Tobias Lear," and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On May 30 Lear acknowledged, for the President, to Thomas Wignell, two copies of "The Contrast." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book."

[77] The Senate confirmed this nomination (June 2).

[78] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

An undated congratulatory address from the Hebrew congregation of the city of Savannah and Washington's reply thereto are also recorded in the "Letter Book." Sparks dates these at the end of May, 1790.

On June 2 Washington sent a message to the Senate, nominating the officers to the one regiment of infantry and the one battalion of artillery which made up the United States Army at that time. This message and list is entered in the "Letter Book" and are printed in the *Executive Journal,* vol. 1.

To HENRY HILL

New York, June 3, 1790.

Sir: The severe indisposition from which I am just recovering[79] will excuse this late acknowledgment of your letter of the 7 instant,[80] which accompanied the cane[81] left me by the great and invaluable Dr. Franklin.

As a token of remembrance and a mark of friendship, I receive this legacy with pleasing sensations and a grateful heart, and the words in which it was conveyed were highly flattering, as coming from a man, of whom the world justly entertained an exalted opinion, and whose favorable sentiments could not fail of being grateful to the person upon whom they were bestowed.

To you, Sir, my best acknowledgments are due for the polite manner in which you have executed your trust, and I beg you to accept the thanks of Your etc.[82]

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, June 3, 1790.

Dear Sir: My absence from this place since the middle of April is the cause of my not having duly acknowledged the

[79] Washington was indisposed with a bad cold on May 9 and on May 10 suffered a severe illness which, from its violence, duration, and after effects seems to have been pneumonia. On May 15 his life was dispaired of, according to William Maclay; but by May 24 the President had so far recovered as to ride out in his carriage.

[80] A mistake of the copyist. Hill had written from Philadelphia (May 7): "I have the honor as one of the Executors of the late Doctor Franklin to present you by the hands of Major Clarkson a token left by him in the following words: 'My fine Crabtree walking stick with a gold head curiously wrought in the form of the cap of Liberty I give to my friend and the friend of Mankind General Washington. If it were a sceptre, he has merited it, and would become it.'" Hill's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[81] The cane is now in the United States National Museum, Washington, D. C.

[82] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

receipt of your favors of the 24th of March and 27th of April, both of which are now before me.

The Cook [83] arrived and entered upon his duty on the first of May; he gives us good dinners, and the Steward says he conducts himself well. We are much obliged by your Agency in obtaining him.

I am happy to inform you that the President recovers his strength and flesh very fast.

Will you, Sir, be kind enough to have the enclosed letter handed to Mr. Wignall, and thereby oblige, Your etc.[84]

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

New York, June 3, 1790.

My dear Marquis: Your kind letter of the 12th of January is, as your letters always are, extremely acceptable to me. By some chance its arrival had been retarded to this time. Conscious of your friendly dispositions for me, and realizing the enormous burden of public business with which you was oppressed, I felt no solicitude but that you should go directly forward and happily effect your great undertakings. How much, how sincerely am I rejoiced, My dear Marquis, to find that things are assuming so favorable an aspect in France! Be assured that you always have my best and most ardent wishes for your success; and that, if I have not troubled you with letters of late, it was because I had nothing, which it was very essential to communicate, and because I knew how much better your time was employed than in answering letters merely of a private nature.

You have doubtless been informed from time to time of the happy progress of our affairs. The principal difficulties which opposed themselves in any shape to the prosperous execution of

[83] Thor Vicare.

[84] This letter was signed "Tobias Lear," and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

our Government seem in a great measure to have been surmounted. A Good temper prevails among our Citizens. Rhode Island has just now acceded to the Constitution,[85] and has thus united under the general government all the States of the original Confederacy. Vermont we hope will soon come within the pale of the Union. Two new States[86] exist under the immediate direction of the General Government, Viz. that at the head of which is Genl. St. Clair, and that which consists of the territory lately ceded by the State of North Carolina.

Our government is now happily carried into operation. Although some thorny questions still remain, it is to be hoped that the wisdom of those concerned in the national Legislature will dispose of them prudently. A funding system is one of the subjects, which occasions most anxiety and perplexity. Yet our revenues have been considerably more productive than it was imagined they would be. In the last year, the plentiful crops and great prices of grain, have vastly augmented our remittances. The rate of exchange is also much in our favor. Importations of European goods have been uncommonly extensive, and the duties payable into the public Treasury proportionably so. Our Trade to the East Indies flourishes. The profits to Individuals are so considerable as to induce more persons to engage in it continually; a single vessel just arrived in this Port pays 30,000 Dollars to Government. Two Vessels fitted out for the fur trade to the North West coast of America have succeeded well. The whole outfits of Vessels and cargoes cost but £7,000: one is returning home loaded with India produce, the other going back to the Coast of America; and they have deposited 100,000 Dollars of their profits in China. I mention this to shew the spirit of enterprise that prevails. I hope and trust our Commerce with the West India Islands belonging to different

[85] Rhode Island ratified May 29, 1790.
[86] Northwest Territory and Tennessee.

Nations (which is at present of no great consequence) will shortly be placed upon a better footing. As the People of this Country are sensible of the generous conduct of the French Nation, I can, with great satisfaction, give it as my decided opinion, that the most friendly dispositions prevail on our side the water towards that nation.

Many of your old acquaintances and Friends are concerned with me in the Administration of this Government. By having Mr. Jefferson at the Head of the Department of State, Mr. Jay of the Judiciary, Hamilton of the Treasury and Knox of that of War, I feel myself supported by able Co-adjutors, who harmonize extremely well together. I believe that these and the other appointments generally have given perfect satisfaction to the Public. Poor Colo. Harrison, who was appointed one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, and declined, is lately dead.[87]

I have, a few days since, had a severe attack of the peripneumony kind: but am now recovered, except in point of strength. My Physicians advise me to more exercise and less application to business. I cannot, however, avoid persuading myself, that it is essential to accomplish whatever I have undertaken (though reluctantly) to the best of my abilities. But it is thought Congress will have a recess this summer, in which case I propose going for a while to Mount Vernon. With sentiments of the sincerest affection etc.[88]

To MARQUISE DE LAFAYETTE

New York, June 3, 1790.

Madam: It gives me infinite pleasure, in acknowledging the receipt of your polite letter of the 14th of January last, to transmit the Brevet Commission, that was desired for M. Poirey.

[87] Robert Hanson Harrison died Apr. 2, 1790.
[88] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

Aside of his services in America, which alone might have entitled him to this distinction, his attachment to the Marquis de la Fayette and your protection added claims that were not to be resisted. And you will, I dare flatter myself, do me the justice to believe that I can never be more happy than in according marks of attention to so good a friend to America and so excellent a patriot as Madame la Marquise de la Fayette. Nor did she need any excuse for making use of her own language to be the interpreter of so much politeness and persuasion as she has found means to convey in one short letter. In truth that language, at least when used by her, seems made on purpose to have fine things communicated in it; and I question whether any other, at least in the hands of any other person, would have been equally competent to the effect.

By some accident your letter reached me only a few days ago. This fact is the sole reason of your not hearing sooner from me, and must be an apology for any seeming neglect on my part. I request you will present my compliments to the Gentlemen who desired to be so cordially remembered to me. Mrs. Washington and her two youngest Grand-Children (who live with us) join me in offering our affectionate regards to your family: in whose welfare, believe me Madam, no one is more deeply interested than he who has the honor to subscribe himself, Yours etc.[89]

To GOVERNOR ARTHUR FENNER

New York, June 4, 1790.

Sir: In acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 29th of May, I cannot forbear to congratulate you and

[89] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On June 3 Washington acknowledged to David Ramsay a copy of his *History of the American Revolution* (2 vols., 1789). "Accept my acknowledgments and best thanks for this mark of polite attention, from which I expect to derive much pleasure and satisfaction in the perusal." This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

the people of your State upon the happy event which has since taken place by the adoption and ratification of the Constitution of the United States by the Convention of Rhode Island.

Having now attained the desirable object of uniting under one general Government all those States which were originally confederated, we have a right to expect, with the blessing of a divine providence, that our Country will afford us all those domestic enjoyments of which a free people only can boast; and at the same time secure that respectability abroad which she is entitled to by nature and from circumstances. Since the bond of Union is now complete, and we once more consider ourselves as one family, it is much to be hoped that reproaches will cease and prejudices be done away; for we should all remember that we are members of that community upon whose general success depends our particular and individual welfare; and, therefore, if we mean to support the Liberty and Independence which it has cost us so much blood and treasure to establish, we must drive far away the dæmon of party spirit and local reproach.

I should be deficient in politeness as well as sensibility were I to close this letter without acknowledging the impression, which the great personal regard and warm wishes for my individual felicity expressed in your Letter has made on me. I have the honor &c.[90]

To MERCY OTIS WARREN

New York, June 4, 1790.

Madam: I did not receive before the last mail the letter where in you favored me with a copy of the dedication, which you propose prefixing to a work prepared for publication.[91]

Although I have ever wished to avoid being drawn into public view more than was essentially necessary for public purposes,

[90] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[91] *Poems, Dramatic and Miscellaneous* (Boston: 1790). Mrs Mercy Otis Warren was the wife of James Warren.

yet, on the present occasion duly sensible of the merits of the respectable and amiable Writer, I shall not hesitate to accept the intended honor.

With only leisure to thank you or your indulgent sentiments, and to wish that your work may meet with the encouragement which I have no doubt it deserves; I hasten to present the compliments of Mrs. Washington, and to subscribe myself with great esteem and regard, Madam, Your etc.[92]

*To DAVID STUART

New York, June 15, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 2nd Instant came duly to hand.[93]

[92] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On June 4 the Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers of Providence, R. I., sent a congratulatory address to Washington, to which he replied at some unknown date. Both the address and the reply are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

One this same day (June 4) Washington sent a message to the Senate nominating the consuls and vice consuls for the United States abroad.

On June 7 Washington sent a message to the Senate, nominating the judiciary for North Carolina and the governor and other officers for the Territory South of the Ohio. This message is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On this same day (June 7) Washington went on a fishing trip off Sandy Hook. He did not return to New York until June 9.

On June 14 Washington wrote briefly to Gov. Beverley Randolph, thanking him for a copy of the letter of May 31 from the Governor of New Orleans (Estéban Miró) to Benjamin Sebastian, of Kentucky. "I thank your Excellency for this communication, as I shall for such further information respecting the Western Country as you may from time to time receive, and which the interest of the Union require to be known." This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On this same day (June 14) Lear wrote to Robert Aitken, the Philadelphia printer, that the President was "sorry for the losses you mention to have sustained by the depreciation of public securities, and the large impression of the Bible which you made in the War; and especially as you observe that this impression was undertaken in conformity to the wishes and under the patronage of the then Congress. . . . Yet it is not in his power to gratify his own feelings by affording relief in every instance; and the request which you make to him to be appointed Printer and Stationer to Congress can only be answered by your application to that Body, in the appointment of whose particular Officers he has no right to interfere." Lear's letter also is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

[93] Stuart had written: "I shall now endeavor to give you all the information I have been able to collect, respecting the present temper of mind of the people of this state . . . the late transactions of Congress, have soured the Public mind to a great degree; which was just recovering from the fever, which the Slave business had

If there are any Gazettes among my files at Mount Vernon which can be of use to you they are at your Service.

Your description of the public Mind, in Virginia, gives me pain. It seems to be more irritable, sour and discontented than (from the information received) it is in any other State in the Union, except Massachusetts; which, from the same causes, but on quite different principles, is tempered like it.

That Congress does not proceed with all that dispatch which people at a distance expect; and which, were they to hurry business, they possibly might; is not to be denied. That measures have been agitated wch. are not pleasing to Virginia; and others, pleasing perhaps to her, but not so to some other States; is equally unquestionable. Can it well be otherwise in a Country so extensive, so diversified in its interests? And will not these different interests naturally produce in an Assembly of Representatives

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occasioned, when the later much-agitated question of the State debts came on. With respect to the Slave business . . . great advantages had been taken of it . . . by many who wished to purchase slaves, circulating a report that Congress were about to pass an act for their general emancipation. This occasioned such an alarm, that many were sold for the merest trifle . . . the sellers were of course much enraged at Congress, for taking up a subject they were precluded by the Constitution from meddling with for the present, and thus furnishing the occasion for the alarm which induced them to sell. As the people in that part of the Country were before much opposed to the Government, it may naturally be supposed, that this circumstance has embittered them much more against it.

"As to the assumption of the State debts, I scarce think it would be a measure generally acceptable on any principles. . . . There is I think in general, in consequence of these two instances, a strong apprehension, that the predictions relative to the grasping at power by unwarrantable constructions of the Constitution will be verified. On these two subjects at least, it is observed by most, (for there are some who after a proper liquidation and allowance of credit to the States, for what has been paid, approve of the Assumption) that the Constitution appeared so clear, as to be incapable of misconstruction, by those who wished to make it a rule and guide to their conduct. A strong suspicion too is entertained, from the number of Speculators, who have been traversing the State purchasing up State Securities, that there is a good deal of selfishness mixed with the plan. And this perhaps causes it to be viewed with more particular dislike. . . . The slowness with which the business is carried on, is another cause of complaint. Congress it is said, sit only four hours a day, and like School-boys observe every Saturday as a Holyday. If this be true, it is certainly trifling with their Constituents in the extreme, who pay them liberally, and have therefore a right to expect more diligence from them. It is the more unfortunate as it is represented at the same time, that they generally live for two dollars a day." Stuart's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

who are to Legislate for, and to assimilate and reconcile them to the general welfare, long, warm and animated debates? Most undoubtedly; and if there was the same propensity in Mankind to investigate the motives, as there is for censuring the conduct of public characters, it would be found that the censure so freely bestowed is oftentimes unmerited and uncharitable; for instance, the condemnation of Congress for sitting only four hours in the day. The fact is, by the established rules of the House of Representatives, no Committee can sit whilst the House is sitting; and this is, and has been for a considerable time, from ten o'clock in the forenoon until three, often later, in the afternoon; before and after which the business is going on in Committees. If this application is not as much as most Constitutions are equal to, I am mistaken. Many other things which undergo malignant constructions wd. be found, upon a candid examination to wear other faces than are given to them. The misfortune is the enemies to the Government, always more active than its friends and always upon the watch to give it a stroke, neglect no opportunity to aim one. If they tell truth, it is not the whole truth; by which means one side only of the picture appears; whereas if both sides were exhibited it might, and probably would assume a different form in the opinion of just and candid men who are disposed to measure matters on a Continental Scale. I do not mean however, from what I have here said, to justify the conduct of Congress in all its movements; for some of these movements, in my opinion, have been injudicious and others unseasonable, whilst the questions of Assumption; Residence and other matters have been agitated with a warmth and intemperence; with prolixity and threats; which it is to be feared has lessened the dignity of that body and decreased that respect which was once entertained for it. And this misfortune is increased by many members, even among those who wish well

to the Government, ascribing in letters to their respective States when they are unable to carry a favourite measure, the worst motives for the conduct of their opponents; who, viewing matters through a different medium may, and do retort in their turn; by which means jealousies and distrusts are spread most impolitickly, far and wide; and will, it is to be feared, have a most unhappy tendency to injure our public affairs, which, if wisely conducted might make us (as we are now by Europeans thought to be) the happiest people upon Earth. As an evidence of it, our reputation has risen in every part of the Globe; and our credit, especially in Holland, has got higher than that of *any* Nation in Europe (and where our funds are above par) as appears by *Official* advices just received. But the conduct we seem to be pursuing will soon bring us back to our late disreputable condition. The introductions of the (Quaker) Memorial respecting Slavery, was to be sure, not only an illjudged piece of business, but occasioned a great waste of time. The final decision thereon, however, was as favourable as the proprietors of that species of property could have expected considering the great dereliction to Slavery in a large part of this Union.

The question of Assumption has occupied a great deal of time, and no wonder; for it is certainly a very important one; and, under *proper* restrictions, and scrutiny into Accounts will be found, I conceive to be just. The Cause in which the expenses of the War was incurred, was a Common Cause. The States (in Congress) declared it so at the beginning and pledged themselves to stand by each other. If then, some States were harder pressed than others, or from particular or local circumstances contracted heavier debts, it is but reasonable when this fact is ascertained (though it is a sentiment I have not made known here) that an allowance ought to be made them when due credit

is given to others. Had the invaded, and hard pressed States believed the case would have been otherwise; opposition in them would very soon, I believe, have changed to submission; and given a different termination to the War.[94]

In a letter of last year to the best of my recollection, I informed you of the motives, which *compelled* me to allot a day for the reception of idle and ceremonious visits (for it never has prevented those of sociability and friendship in the afternoon, or at any other time) but if I am mistaken in this, the history of this business is simply and shortly as follows. Before the custom was established, which now accommodates foreign characters, Strangers, and others who from motives of curiosity, respect to the Chief Magistrate, or any other cause, are induced to call upon me, I was unable to attend to any business *whatsoever;* for Gentlemen, consulting their own convenience rather than mine, were calling from the time I rose from breakfast, often before, until I sat down to dinner. This, as I resolved not to neglect my public duties, reduced me to the choice of one of these alternatives, either to refuse them *altogether,* or to appropriate a time for the reception of them. The first would, I well knew, be disgusting to many. The latter, I *expected,* would undergo animadversion, and blazoning from those who would find fault, *with,* or *without* cause. To please everybody was impossible; I therefore adopted that line of conduct which combined public advantage with private convenience, and which in my judgment was unexceptionable in itself. That I have not been able to make bows to the taste of poor Colonel Bland, (who, by the by, I believe never saw one of them) is to be regretted especially too as (upon those occasions) they were indiscriminately bestowed, and the best I was master of; would it not have been

[94] To this point the text is from a photostat of the incomplete original in the possession of W. S. Johns and Cornelia Johns Grice, of Norfolk, Va.

better to throw the veil of charity over them, ascribing their stiffness to the effects of age, or to the unskillfulness of my teacher, than to pride and dignity of office, which God knows has no charms for me? for I can truly say I had rather be at Mount Vernon with a friend or two about me, than to be attended at the Seat of Government by the Officers of State and the Representatives of every Power in Europe.

These visits are optional. They are made without invitation. Between the hours of three and four every Tuesday I am prepared to receive them. Gentlemen, often in great numbers, come and go, chat with each other, and act as they please. A Porter shews them into the room, and they retire from it when they please, and without ceremony. At their *first* entrance they salute me, and I them, and as many as I can talk to I do. What pomp there is in all this, I am unable to discover. Perhaps it consists in not sitting. To this two reasons are opposed, first it is unusual; secondly, (which is a more substantial one) because I have no room large enough to contain a third of the chairs, which would be sufficient to admit it. If it is supposed that ostentation, or the fashions of courts (which by the by I believe originates oftener in convenience, not to say necessity than is generally imagined) gave rise to this custom, I will boldly affirm that *no* supposition was ever more erroneous; for, if I was to give indulgence to my inclinations, every moment that I could withdraw from the fatigues of my station should be spent in retirement. That they are not proceeds from the sense I entertain of the propriety of giving to every one as free access, as consists with that respect which is due to the Chair of government; and that respect I conceive is neither to be acquired or preserved but by observing a just medium between much state and too great familiarity.

Similar to the above, but of a more sociable kind are the visits every Friday afternoon to Mrs. Washington where I always am. These public meetings and a dinner once a week to as many as my table will hold, with the references *to* and *from* the different Departments of State, and *other* Communications with *all* parts of the Union is as much, if not more, than I am able to undergo; for I have already had within less than a year, two *severe* attacks; the last worse than the first; a third more than probable, will put me to sleep with my fathers; at what distance this may be I know not. Within the last twelve months I have undergone more, and severer sickness than thirty preceding years afflicted me with, put it all together. I have abundant reason however to be thankful that I am so well recovered; though I still feel the remains of the violent affection of my lungs. The cough, pain in my breast, and shortness in breathing not having entirely left me. I propose in the recess of Congress to visit Mount Vernon; but when this recess will happen is beyond my ken, or the ken I believe of any of its members. I am &c.[95]

To DANIEL OWEN[96]

United States, June 19, 1790.

Sir: I have delayed acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 29th of May, which contained official information of the adoption and ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America by the State of Rhode Island,[97] until the form of the ratification should be received, which together with your

[95] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[96] President of the Convention of Rhode Island for ratifying the Constitution of the United States.

[97] A copy of this letter announcing the ratification was sent by Washington to Congress June 16 in a brief message to the Senate and House of Representatives. This message is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

letter accompanying it got to my hands but a few days ago; and I take this opportunity of offering you my sincere congratulations upon this event which unites under one general government all the branches of the great American family, and I doubt not but it will prove as auspicious to the good people of your State as it is pleasing to the other parts of the Union. With due consideration I am etc.[98]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Saturday, June 19, 1790.

The enclosed Letters and documents from Mr. Gouvr. Morris are sent for the perusal of the Secretary of State.

The private letters from the Marquis de la Fayette and Mr. Payne[99] he also gives Mr. Jefferson a sight of; because there are some ideas in the latter which are new, and in the former, general information respecting the Affairs of France, which, by being compar'd with other Accts. may (though not of very late date, but from the respectibility of the authority) enable one to form a better judgment of the situation of things in that Country, than they could do from any single relation of them.[1]

To SAMUEL POWEL

New York, June 20, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 11th instant was handed to me by Mr. Parish,[2] together with proposals for publishing, and

[98] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[99] Thomas Paine. His letter of May 1 is in the *Washington Papers*. In it he speaks of having been intrusted by Lafayette with the key of the Bastile to send to Washington, and suggests that the President write a congratulatory letter to the King and Queen of France and the National Assembly on the example they are setting to Europe.

[1] From the original in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[2] Robert Parrish.

requesting permission to dedicate to me, the Travels of Mr. William Bartram through Florida &c.

The request I declined, as I have done many others of a similar nature; not with a view to discourage a work of this kind, which I am persuaded, if executed by an able hand, may be very useful among us; but to avoid with propriety future applications of this nature unless where some particular circumstances might induce a compliance. If affixing my name as a subscriber to this work can promote the author's good intentions, I am happy in having done it; and I sincerely wish it all the success, which its merits may demand. Mrs. Washington joins me in compliments to yourself and Mrs. Powel. With very great esteem &c.[3]

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, June 20, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have now before me your favor of the 16th. Inst. enclosing the Presidents Account which stands right. In the charge of May 20th., I observe there is mentioned Coach hire, Expenses and *Express* to New York for Dr. Jones,[4] if by this *express* is meant the person who went from this place to Philadelphia for Dr. Jones, I imagine there must have been some misunderstanding in the demand, for I have pd. Colo Brauman the post Master here 25 Dollars for an express sent by Colo Cummings[5] to Philadelphia on that occasion I will therefore thank you for an explanation of the matter in your next. Will you be so good as to desire Mr. Hare to have if he continues to make the best Porter in Philadelphia 3 gross of his best put up for Mount Vernon? as the President means to visit that place in the recess

[3] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[4] Dr. Gardner Jones.
[5] John Noble Cumming(?).

of Congress and it is probable there will be a large demand for Porter at that time. I will take care to have some money transmitted to you in season for that purpose as the ballance in your hands will not be sufficient. Mrs. Washington requests you to be so kind as to inform me if any handsome blue and white china Tea and Coffee Cups and Saucers can be had in Philadelphia and the price per Dozn. She does not want a sett of china but Cups and saucers only to match some which she has at Mount Vernon.

Mrs. Lear Joins me in thanks to you and Mrs. Biddle for your congratulations on our marriage and requests her best compliments may be presented to Mrs. Biddle.

With very great regard etc.[6]

To JAMES WOOD

New York, June 22, 1790.

Dear Sir: I ought to make many apologies to you for not answering a letter which you did me the favor of writing to me some considerable time ago respecting my caveat, and to which reference is made in your letter of the 7th. now before me. I find an excuse exceedingly necessary for me at present for (not having letters of that date by me to refer to) I am obliged to acknowledge that I do not recollect enough of the terms then communicated, to enable me to decide upon the matter now.

Will you permit me then, my good Sir, to ask you once more whether by paying the State price for the land is all that remains for me to do to obtain it, or whether, and what the precise cost to the final completion by Patent (inclusive) amounts to. I will then, without further delay write to you definitively. The land

[6]This letter was signed "Tobias Lear," and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

to the best of my recollection is of no great value. The State price therefore is an object of some consideration; but one which has yet more weight in my mind is, not to have my name brought forward in a dispute of this sort before any tribunal, rather than this I would submit to the loss. I am etc.[7]

To JOHN CANNON

New York, June 25, 1790.

Sir: Your letter of the 2 instant has reached my hands and in consequence thereof I have applied to Mr. Scott for fifty pounds as you desired, who informs me that he did not expect a draught to exceed £15. or £20. and therefore had not made his arrangements for 50. however he says he will pay it if he can make it convenient.

As the rents of my lands under your care were to be paid in wheat, and the demand for, and high price of that article having been very extraordinary the year past, I did not conceive there could have been any difficulty in making payments or in obtaining cash and a good price for the wheat after it was deposited in your hands, for I presume the payment is not commuted from wheat to cash at the customary price, when it would fetch more than double what it does in common years; This would be hardly doing justice to the Landlord, and I always wish for his, and the tenants' interest to be reciprocal. By a letter which I received from you before I left Mount Vernon, if I recollect the substance of it, the Tenants then upon my lands were to furnish a certain number of rails besides a stipulated quantity of wheat for their rent, and, from that circumstance I thought there might be but little deduction in future on that account; however, I find by your last letter that you expect a

[7] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

considerable portion of the rents will be deducted on that account for the present year. I should wish to have the matter of fences, repairs &ca. finished and done away that I might have what net proceeds to calculate upon, which can never be done so long as these annual and uncertain deductions are to be made. I am etc.[8]

To GEORGE CLENDINEN

New York, June 25, 1790.

Sir: I have upon the great Kanawa and Ohio river, between the two Kanawas several large and valuable tracts of land, which I have been long endeavoring to settle, but without effect. Some three or four years ago I wrote to Colonel Thomas Lewis, who lives in that neighbourhood, requesting his assistance or agency in this business, transmitting to him at the sametime instructions expressive of my wishes as to the mode or terms of settlement together with such other papers respecting the lands as were necessary for his information. After a considerable lapse of time Colonel Lewis returned the instructions and papers declining any agency in the business, lest he should not be able to transact it to my satisfaction, as he had lands of his own to settle in that neighbourhood, which might cause a clashing or interfering of interests that would be disagreeable or inconvenient to him. I however returned the same papers to him requesting that he would accept the trust, and at the sametime put the matter upon such a footing as I conceived would do away the objections which he had stated. It is now almost two years since the papers were last deposited in Colonel Lewis's hands, and I have not heard a syllable from him upon the subject, which leads me to believe that he still wishes to decline the trust. It is therefore necessary for me to place this business in other hands,

[8] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

and your residence in that vicinity with the knowledge which you must have of the Country and the very favorable representations I have received of your character have induced me to request, Sir, that you would assist me in the settlement of these lands, which, if you incline to do, I have requested Colonel Lewis (in the enclosed letter, left open for your perusal, and which, if you accept the trust, you will please to seal and forward to him) to deliver into your hands or to your order, the instructions and other papers respecting my lands which he received from me. These will shew you my *general* ideas on this subject, and give you better information respecting it than I am able to do here, as all my land papers &ca. are at Mount Vernon. I must however add that altho' I may, in my instructions to Colonel Lewis, have mentioned some particular terms upon which I wished to have the lands rented, yet in my letters to him, if my recollection serves me, I desired him to be governed by the custom of the country in this business rather than by my instructions, and to get him settled on the best terms he could, provided the leases were not given for too long a period, and the taxes were paid by the Tenant. This I would repeat to you for my great object at present is to have the lands settled, and be exonerated from the Taxes. I do not expect they will yield me an immediate profit, I would not however wish to have the lands incumbered with long leases, for it is my opinion that property in that country will fast increase in value, and, in that case, long leases upon the terms which they will probably be given to first settlers will be much against the landlord, and they are always considered as an obstacle to the sale of lands.

I will thank you, Sir, for an answer to this letter as soon as it gets to your hands, that I may know upon what ground I stand as to my property in that country. I am etc.[9]

[9] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THOMAS LEWIS

New York, June 25, 1790.

Sir: When I returned to your hands the instructions and papers respecting my lands in your neighbourhood, I thought I had sufficiently obviated the reasons which first induced you to decline any agency in that business, by putting it on a footing which might render it perfectly compatible with your own interest and convenience, and I was in a measure confirmed in the opinion that you had accepted the trust, and would comply with my wishes by your not having again returned the papers to me. But near two years have elapsed since that time, and I have not received a line from you, nor heard a syllable respecting the matter. This leads me to believe that it is not convenient for you to serve me in this business, and, as it is necessary for my interest that some person in that country should superintend my lands there, and promote the settlement of them in some way or another I have requested Colonel George Clandenen of Kanawa-county to undertake it, and, if he inclines to do it, he will call upon you for the instructions and papers, which are in your hands, respecting this business, and which I request may be delivered to him or to his order. I am etc.[10]

To JUDGE DAVID SEWALL[11]

New York, June 28, 1790.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, enclosing a copy of the process of the district Court of Main against Thomas Bird for a capital offence.

No palliating circumstance appeared in the case of this unhappy Man to recommend him to mercy for which he applied:

[10] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[11] Of the Maine district.

I could not therefore have justified it to the laws of my Country, had I, in this instance, exercised that pardoning power which the Constitution vests in the President of the United States. I am etc.[12]

To THE EARL OF BUCHAN

New York, June 30, 1790.

My Lord: I received a few days ago the letter which your Lordship did me the honor to write to me on the 27th of March last; accompanied with a view of Doctor Anderson's[13] proposed periodical publication.[14]

Doctor Anderson's plan appears judicious, and if the execution shall equal the design in goodness (as from your account of the Author we have reason to expect) there can be no doubt but his Journal will be of great utility wherever it may be circulated. For the purpose of promoting the circulation, by bringing its object and importance more generally into notice, some account of this literary undertaking will be published in the Gazette of the United States: a paper which is read extensively in America.

From the multiplicity of business, of different kinds, in which I am involved, I have myself less leisure than I could wish for attending to new publications. I shall, however, be glad to give all the encouragement in my power to the work in question, as well on account of its own merits, as to demonstrate the real respect and esteem, with which I have the honor etc.[15]

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[12] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On June 29 Lear wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury inclosing a "Return of the persons appointed by the President of the United States for the Superintendance of certain Light Houses, Beacons, Buoys and public Piers in the United States." Lear's letter and "Return" is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

[13] James Anderson, a Scotch economist and agriculturist.

[14] Anderson published, among other things, *Selections from the Correspondence of George Washington and James Anderson* (Charlestown, Mass.: 1800).

[15] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

To CHARLES WILLIAM FREDERICK DUMAS[16]

New York, June 30, 1790.

Sir: This late acknowledgment of the receipt of your letter of the 6th of November 1789, and the little box which accompanied it, might require some particular apology had I only my own private concerns to attend to but when important public duties require my constant attention every allowance must be made for the want of punctuality in those things which regard me individually.

I beg, Sir, that you will accept my best thanks for the polite manner in which you have transmitted to me the poems and epistles which the Society of Leyden, for the encouragement of the liberal arts in Holland have done me the honor to send to me; and at the same time I must ask the favor of you to forward the enclosed letter to that Society,[17] which is expressive of the sense I entertain of their polite attention to me. I am etc.[18]

To DUCHESNE, DE BARTH, THIEBAUD, AND THEIR ASSOCIATES IN THE SCIOTO SETTLEMENT

N: York, June 30, 1790.

Gentlemen: At the time when your first application arrived, my health was unfortunately in such an impaired condition as to prevent me from attending to any business whatever. My sickness at that period, also, deprived me of the pleasure of seeing several Gentlemen, concerned in the Scioto Settlement,

[16] Secret agent for the United States in Holland during the Revolutionary War.

[17] A letter to the protectors and directors of the Poetical Society of Leyden in Holland (dated June 30) is recorded in the "Letter Book." It is a politely formal acknowledgment. A copy of Dirk Erkelens' "George Washington, Lierzang," and of G. Brender á Brandis's "George Washington, Lierzang," and other laudatory poems, printed in Leyden, 1789(?), is in the Library of Congress.

[18] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

who were then in this Town. Upon my recovery, and before those Gentlemen had returned to Alexandria, I received another address.[19] But understanding that arrangements had been made to remove most or all of the difficulties which had occurred; and understanding likewise that the Persons best advised on the subject were well satisfied with the measures which had been taken, and in general with the prospects; I omitted to acknowledge the receipt of those applications at an earlier day. The variety of objects which demanded my immediate attention, on the re-establishment of my health, must be considered (as was really the case) a principal occasion of this delay on my part.

The design of this letter is particularly to acquaint you, Gentlemen, that I had not through inattention neglected taking notice of your addresses; to welcome you upon your arrival in this Country; and to assure you of all that *countenance and protection* from the General Government of the United States, which the Constitution and Laws will enable the Executive to afford under existing circumstances.

With the sincerest wishes for your health, tranquility and prosperity I am etc.[20]

To DIEGO DE GARDOQUI

New York, July 1, 1790.

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive the two letters which you wrote to me on the 21st of December last from Bilboa, giving information of your safe arrival at that place after a passage rendered peculiarly tedious by the weather and your indisposition. As impressions made by bad weather at sea seldom continue

[19] Neither the "application" nor "address" is now found in the *Washington Papers*.
[20] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

long after we get on shore; and your indisposition was almost removed at the time of your writing, I flatter myself that before this, you enjoy your usual tranquility and good health.

I thank you, Sir, for the interest you take in my welfare and personal happiness, and it is with pleasure I can inform you that I now enjoy a tolerable share of health after several weeks of severe illness which had nearly terminated my existance.

It is unnecessary for me to touch upon the political occurrences at this place, as they are undoubtedly handed to you from time to time by Mr. Viar.[21]

The accession of the State of Rhode Island to the Constitution of the United States, has compleated our union under the general Government; and if we should be so happy as to see you again among us, I trust you will find harmony in our councils and respectability in our political concerns.

Mrs. Washington thanks you for your polite rememberance of herself and Grand-children and requests her compliments may be given to you. With esteem etc.[22]

To COMTE DE SÉGUR[23]

New York, July 1, 1790.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of the 24th of August last; and I beg that you will be persuaded, that I have a grateful heart for the congratulations, which you offer upon the organization of our new government, as well as for the warm expressions of personal attachment and good wishes for my happiness which your letter contained.

It is with singular pleasure I can inform your Excellency that the Union of the States is now complete under the new

[21] José Ignácio de Viar. He was Spanish commissioner to the United States.
[22] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[23] Then French Minister to Russia.

Government, by the late accession of Rhode Island to the Constitution. This event will enable us to make a fair experiment of a Constitution which was framed solely with a view to promote the happiness of a people. Its effects hitherto have equalled the expectations of its most sanguine friends; and there can remain no reasonable doubts of its producing those consequences, which were expected from an equal and efficient Government.

Should the conduct of the Americans, whilst promoting their own happiness, influence the feelings of other nations, and thereby render a service to mankind, they will receive a double pleasure, in which no one will rejoice more than he, who has the honor to subscribe himself, your Excellency's, &c.[24]

To GOVERNOR CHARLES PINCKNEY

New York, July 5, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 14th of June, and a few days after a duplicate of the same, each enclosing a copy of the Constitution lately formed for your State. The address of the Convention,[25] which you mentioned in your letter, has been presented by the Gentlemen in Congress from South Carolina; and I have endeavored to express, in my answer thereto, the grateful sense which I have of the favorable opinion entertained of me by the people of that State.

I sincerely wish that the citizens of South Carolina may experience, under this new form of Government, every species

[24] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[25] This address is dated May 31 and, with Washington's reply, which is undated, is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. In his reply Washington said, in part: "If there be for me any peculiarly just subject of exultation, and with an honest pride I avow the fact, it is in being the citizen of a country, whose inhabitants were so enlightened and disinterested as to sacrifice local prejudices and temporary systems for the sake of rendering secure and permanent that Independency, which had been the price of so much treasure and blood. Animated with the hope of transmitting to Posterity the spirit of a free constitution in its native purity; they have, since the conclusion of the war evinced the rectitude of their principles, as well as proved themselves by their practice worthy of their successes."

of political happiness that can result from equal and just laws wisely executed.

I thank you, my dear Sir, for the friendly anxiety which you express for my health, and have the pleasure to inform you that it is now pretty well established.

Mrs. Washington thanks you for your polite remembrance of her and desires her compliments may be presented to you.

With sentiments of esteem etc.

P.S. In consequence of measures which I have taken for that purpose, and the agency of a person sent into the Creek nation with that express view, I have received certain information that Mr. McGillivray and a number of the head men of the Creeks are now on their way to this place.[26]

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

New York, July 7, 1790.

Dear Sir: This letter will be short. The intention of it being little more than to acknowledge the receipt of your several favors from London, dated the 7 and 13 of April and 1 and 2 of May, on the business which had been entrusted to you of a public nature; and of your other letters of the 12. of April and 3 of May, which more immediately related to my private concerns. Permit me to thank you, my good Sir, for the attention you have paid to the latter; and as far as your intercourse with the british ministry had then gone to assure you of my entire approbation of your conduct with respect to the former.

[26] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 6 F. P. Van Berckel wrote to Lear, complaining of the actions of the postilion of the President's carriage. Lear answered, the same day, that "I have now learnt from the Gentlemen who were yesterday in the Presidents Carriage, that they gave orders to the Postillion to keep in the rear of General Knox's carriage; which he accordingly obeyed." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

I shall await the answer which your address of the 30 of April will extort from the Duke of Leeds (if he does not mean to be silent) before I shall write to you more fully on that head.[27]

If the Artizan in France can recollect the form of the surtout [*sic*] which you sent to me, it will be convenient for me, notwithstanding my late countermand, to be furnished with two more plateaux. Those I already have are found upon trial insufficient for my present table, and are besides too short to receive the ornaments which accompanied, and were designed for them without being crowded. That he may have some data for his government I will add that the Plateaux which have been sent me are two feet in dimensions across way the table and eighteen inches in the other direction from edge to edge, where they join, English measure. I am etc.[28]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Thursday, July 15, 1790.

Dear Sir: Have you formed an opinion on the subject I submitted to you on Tuesday?[29] Have you heard whether the Bill was disputed in both or either House of Congress on the ground of the Constitution, or whether this objection (in its full force) was held in petto for the last move, in the present Stage of the business?[30] If it was debated, as above, whether the arguments adduced by the Author of the Address to the P—— were made

[27] A copy of Morris's letter to the Duke of Leeds, Apr. 30, 1790, is in the *Washington Papers*. In this letter Morris dealt with the mutual fulfilment of the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain, compensation for losses, and the prospects of a commercial treaty.

[28] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[29] A marginal note by Jefferson states: "For fixing the seat of the federal govmt."

[30] Jefferson's thoughts are contained in an undated draft in the *Jefferson Papers*, commencing "A Bill having passed the two houses of Congress, and being now before the President, declaring that the seat of the federal government shall be transferred to the Patowmac in the year 1790." This draft is 7 pages 4° in length, not counting a scrap of additional penciled memorandum by James Madison. It is given the assigned date of July 15, 1790, and is printed in P. L. Ford's *Works of Jefferson* (Federal edition), vol. 6, p. 97, *et seq.*

use of, and how treated? and what would be the consequence supposing such a case, as he states, should arise? Yours sincerely and Affectionately.[31]

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, July 18, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have received your much esteemed favor of the 14th. Inst., and will thank you to get the Waiter which you mentioned[32] and keep it with you till we call for it. Silver Waiters can be had here of Warranted silver and best workmanship at 13/10 per oz. this currency, which is lower than with you, we shall therefore have them made here. Your attention to this matter, Dear Sir is highly obliging and deserves our best thanks, as well as your information respecting the China and Muslin. Of the former Mrs. Washington wishes to get 2 dozn. Tea Cups and saucers and a dozn. Coffee Cups and saucers with 3 or 4 Slop bowles to match them; all of blue and white China, handsome, but not of the highest price, as they are for common use, and send them to Mount Vernon by the first Vessel. She will likewise thank you to send her some patterns of plain India Jaquinett Muslin of the finest kind from which she may chuse a piece.

I have to beg your pardon my dear Sir, for neglecting to forward a draft as I promised to do in a former letter, and the day (Sunday) prevents my getting one now from the Treasurer, but I will not fail to do it in the course of the week. With very great regard etc.[33]

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[31] From the original in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[32] Lear had described these waiters in a letter to Biddle of July 11, which is in the Pennsylvania Historical Society, as "plated waiters, suitable for carrying tea round to company . . . with Japanned bottoms and a silver or plated rim of openwork around them."

[33] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, July 20, 1790.

Dear Sir: The first request of this letter is that you would burn it as soon as you have read it and keep the contents to yourself; at least for the present.

Some months ago farms lately in the tenure of Mr. Abel James were advertised for sale by you and Mr. Henry Dunker. These farms I have seen; but not, it is to be acknowledged with the eyes of a Purchaser. The [one] near Frankfort you inform the public contains 284 acres, that another called Callenders contains 79 acres, and a third, near the last, contains upwards of 60 acres.

Let me now ask if all or any of these are yet for sale? What is the *lowest* price that would be taken for each? and whether payment would be received in valuable lands, improved, in the counties of Fayette and Washington in the State of Pennsylvania. One tract of which in Fayette County contains between sixteen and 1700 acres *on* the great road from Fort Cumberland to Pittsburg; distant 75 miles from the former and 40 from the latter place; equal in quality to any tract in that country, with what has been a very valuable mill and iron ore adjoining, but which is now much out of repair. The other tract (containing upwards of 3000 acres) lyes about 16 miles from Pittsburgh, and is also good in quality, and more level than usual.

I shall candidly declare that to pay money is out of the question with me. I have *none* and would not, if it was to be had, run in debt to borrow, nor would it do for me to dispose of *real* property to obtain it, when that species of property is brought to low ebb and dull market.

An exchange, as proposed, if ready money is not indispensable, might be mutually advantageous to both parties, inasmuch

as the probability is, that the price of the exterior will encrease in a full ration with that of the interior lands.

If the farms advertised by you and Mr. Dunker are sold, or if they are not *now* for sale, let me next ask if they will be to be rented? and for what? I ask these questions however more from motives of curiosity than from any expectation of becoming the Renter of either of them; because the principal buildings (which would be of little value to me, in *this* case) might considerably enhance the rent, and because my objects being for the amusement of farming, and for the benefit arising from exercise (the distance from the city being convenient for the latter) I should not incline to lay out much money upon a rented farm, for a short tenure; and for a long one, I should have no occasion for a place in that way. Having communicated the matter this far to you, I will, in a few words add, as my own opinion, strengthened by those of my Physicians, that my late change from active scenes, to which I had been accustomed, and in which the mind has been agreeably amused, to the one of inactivity which I now lead, and where the thoughts are continually on the stretch, has been the cause of more illness and severe attacks of my constitution, within the last twelve months, than I had undergone in 30 years preceding put together. A deviation therefore is necessary. I have not, because you were one from whom the terms of sale of James's lands were to be known, scrupled to make these communications at the moment that I ask the *lowest* price that would be taken for each of these farms. Frankly, I declare it to be my intention, not to give a high price for either of them (depreciated as real property is) nor will I higgle about the price. If it is moderate and I am dealt with candidly, I will say in a word whether it will suit me to become a purchaser, chaffering I shall avoid. The largest

farm would be most congenial to my wishes, perhaps one of the others might do. I am etc.[34]

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, July 25, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have before me your favors of the 21st and 23d Inst. If blue and white China cups and Saucers can be procured (as you observed in your last was probable) and agreeably to my former letter you will please to get three dozen of Tea cups and Saucers and 2 dozn. of Coffee ditto with the bowls Should these not be found you will get the same number of the enameld which you mentioned in your letter of the 21st.

Mrs. Washington desires me to inclose some patterns of Muslin, that if the peice which is sent should not suit, you will be so good as to see if any like the patterns can be had and the prices.

I will thank you to let me know the price of white lead ground in Oil, and also the price of painters Oil fit for immediate use. The President will probably want a considerable quantity of both to be sent to Mount Vernon, and we shall procure it here or in Phila. as may be cheapest. I am, etc.[35]

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[34] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 24 Lear wrote to William Irvine, John Taylor Gilman, and John Kean, commissioners for settling the accounts between the individual States and the United States: "I am ordered by the President of the United States to inform you that the Bill for settling the Accounts between the United States and Individual States is not yet brought to him, nor does he know when it will. If inconveniences to you (as hath been intimated to him) from which you wish to be relieved, are felt, the Papers I am directed to add, may be committed to the care or orders of the Secretary of the Treasury." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[35] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 26 Lear wrote to Capt. ——— Hollis to deliver to Francis Parman 3 mares belonging to the President, which had been sent to be served by Mr. Jay's horse. Lear's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

An undated congratulatory address from the convention of the Universalist Church, lately assembled in Philadelphia, is recorded in the "Letter Book." With it is entered Washington's reply, also undated; but which has been assigned the date of July, 1790. Sparks prints it as of August, 1790.

To THE SENATE

United States, August 4, 1790.

Gentlemen of the Senate: In consequence of the general principles agreed to by the Senate in August 1789, the adjustment of the terms of a treaty is far advanced between the United States and the Chiefs of the Creek Nation of Indians here in this City, in behalf of themselves and the whole of the Creek Nation.

In preparing the Articles of this treaty the present arrangements of the trade with the Creeks have caused much embarrassment. It seems to be well ascertained that the said trade is almost exclusively in the hands of a company of british Merchants, who by agreement make their importation of Goods from England into the Spanish ports.

As the trade of the Indians is a main mean of their political management, it is therefore obvious that the United States cannot possess any security for the performance of treaties with the Creeks, while their trade is liable to be interrupted or withheld at the caprice of two foreign powers. Hence it becomes an object of real importance to form new channels for the Commerce of the Creeks through the United States. But this operation will require time, as the present arrangements can not be suddenly broken without the greatest violation of faith and morals.

It therefore appears to be important to form a secret Article of a treaty similar to the one which accompanies this message.

If the Senate should require any further explanation, the Secretary of War will attend them for that purpose.

[On the same day] The President of the United States states the following question for the consideration and advice of the Senate.

If it should be found essential to a treaty, for the firm establishment of peace with the Creek Nation of Indians, that an Article to the following effect should be inserted therein, will such an Article be proper? vizt.

Secret Article

The Commerce necessary for the Creek Nation shall be carried on through the Ports and by the Citizens of the United States, if substantial and effectual arrangements shall be made for that purpose by the United States on or before the first day of August one thousand seven hundred and ninety two. In the meantime the said Commerce may be carried on through its present channels and according to its present regulations.

And whereas the trade of the said Creek Nation is now carried on wholly or principally through the territories of Spain, and obstructions thereto may happen by war or prohibitions of the Spanish Government.

It is therefore agreed between the said parties, that in the event of any such obstructions happening, it shall be lawful for such persons as shall appoint, to introduce into and transport through the territories of the United States to the Country of the said Creek Nation, any quantity of goods, wares and merchandize, not exceeding in value in any one year sixty thousand dollars and that free from any duties and impositions whatever but subject to such regulations for guarding against abuse, as the United States shall judge necessary, which privilege shall continue as long as such obstructions shall continue.[36]

To THE SENATE

United States, August 6, 1790.

Gentlemen of the Senate: Considering the circumstances which prevented the late Commissioners from concluding a

[36] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

peace with the Creek Nation of Indians, it appeared to me most prudent that all subsequent measures for disposing them to a treaty should in the first instance be informal.

I informed you on the 4th Inst. that the adjustment of the terms of a treaty with their Chiefs now here, was far advanced, such further progress has since been made, that I think measures may at present be taken for conducting and concluding that business in form. It therefore becomes necessary that a proper person be appointed and authorized to treat with these Chiefs and to conclude a treaty with them. For this purpose I nominate to you Henry Knox.[37]

To THE SENATE

United States, August 7, 1790.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I lay before you a treaty between the United States the Chiefs of the Creek Nation, now in this City, in behalf of themselves and the whole Creek Nation subject to the ratification of the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

While I flatter myself that this Treaty will be productive of present peace and prosperity to our Southern frontier, it is to be expected that it will also in its consequences be the means of firmly attaching the Creeks and the neighbouring tribes to the interests of the United States.

At the same time it is to be hoped that it will afford solid grounds of satisfaction to the state of Georgia, as it contains a regular, full and definitive relinquishment, on the part of the Creek Nation, of the Oconee Land, in the utmost extent in which it has been claimed by that State and thus extinguishes the principal cause of those hositilities from which it has more

[37] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

than once experienced such severe calamities. But although the most valuable of the disputed Land is included, yet there is certain claim of Georgia arising out of the treaty, made by that State at Galphinston in November 1785 of Land to the Eastward of a new temporary line from the forks of the Oconee and Oakmulgee in a southwest direction to the St Marys river, which tract of Land the Creeks in this City absolutely refuse to yield. This Land is reported to be generally barren, sunken and unfit for cultivation, except in some instances on the margin of the Rivers, on which by improvement rice might be cultivated, its chief value depending on the timber fit for the building of Ships with which it is represented as abounding. While it is thus circumstanced on the one hand, it is stated by the Creeks on the other to be of the highest importance to them, as constituting some of their most valuable winter hunting ground.

I have directed the Commissioner,[38] to whom the charge of adjusting the treaty has been committed to you lay before you such papers and documents, and to communicate to you such information relatively to it as you may require.[39]

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, August 8, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of the 5th. Inst. inclosing a bill of the China sent to Mount Vernon.

I will agreeably to your request, inform you of the time when the President intends setting off for Mount Vernon, which I imagine will be in about 8 or 10 days after the adjournment of Congress. I will, however just hint to you that the President would not like more parade on his Journey than what may be

[38] Henry Knox.
[39] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

absolutely necessary to gratify the People. It is to him a most fatiguing thing. With great esteem, I am, etc.

P. S. I will thank you to inform me if any Vessel is bound to London from Phila. what are her accommodations for Passengers, and when she sails.[40]

To JAMES WOOD

New York, August 8, 1790.

Dear Sir: The letter with which you was pleased to favor me, dated July the 8. came duly to hand; but business with Congress and the Senate (in their executive capacity) multiplying as the adjournment approached, and with the Creek-Indians; placed it out of my power to acknowledge the receipt of it until this time.

I perceive by your letter that Thomas Mullen or his representatives, is allowed, by an act of Assembly, until the first of December next, to support his or their claim to the land in Hampshire. Although I am persuaded no equitable claim under him can ever be exhibited, it being many years since he run off, and my caveat (although it is not to be found among the papers of the late Proprietor of the Northern-neck) was entered in consequence thereof: yet as I do not want to hazard a dispute, I am most inclined to wait until the first of December before I enter or take any steps to secure the land. If at that time matters respecting it should remain in statu quo, and so unimportant a thing should occur to your recollection, I would thank you for pursuing the necessary measures to secure the land for me, and immediately upon notice thereof, I will defray the expence.

[40] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The resignation of Major Parker[41] will call for the appointment of another Major to fill his place, without occasioning a change among the other officers of the new battalion.

With great esteem etc.

P. S. I am this instant informed by the Secretary of War, that Ensign Archer[42] has resigned his commission, and that both the Lieutenants from Virginia, in the new battalion, were Seniors to Mr. Heth;[43] if, under these circumstances, Mr. Heth inclines to supply the place of Mr. Archer, I should be glad to be informed of it without delay, and the commission will issue accordingly.[44]

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, August 9, 1790.

Dear Sir: In consequence of a private letter from Mrs. Bland,[45] I am led to make some enquiries whether you were acquainted with or can recall to your memory any thing respecting the transactions alluded to in the enclosed Certificate and Statement. If you should not be able to recollect any thing distinctly on the subject yourself, I wish you would apply to General Mifflin to learn whether he has any remembrance or documents of these facts which are alledged to have happened, at the time, when, I think, he was Quarter Mastr. Genl. At such a distance from the period in which these transactions are said to have taken place, I am fully apprised of the difficulties of ascertaining the real circumstances or of doing justice in case it still ought to be done; I should, however, be very glad to render any service in my power respecting this affair to the Lady who has

[41] Maj. Alexander Parker.
[42] Ensign Richard Archer.
[43] Lieut. John Heth.
[44] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[45] Mrs. Martha Dangerfield Bland, widow of Col. Theodorick Bland. Her letter of July 4, 1790, is in the *Washington Papers*.

made the application. It is upon this ground I am giving you this trouble. In whatever manner the investigations may result, I request that you will return the Certificate as early as may be in a letter addressed to me, in order that I may answer the letter which I have received from Mrs. Bland. I am etc.

P. S. As I shall send your answer to Mrs. Bland, write the letter accordingly.[46] [H. S. P.]

To THOMAS PAINE

New York, August 10, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have received in their due order, and have to acknowledge at this time my obligations for your three agreeable letters, in date October 16th, 1789, May 1st. and May 31st.[47] of the present year. With the last I had also the pleasure to receive the Key of the Bastile;[48] in acknowledgment of which I write to the Marquis de la Fayette by this conveyance.

It must, I dare say, give you great pleasure to learn by repeated opportunities, that our new government answers its purposes as well as could have been reasonably expected, that we are gradually overcoming the difficulties, which presented themselves in its first organization, and that our prospects in general are growing daily more favourable. To detail the facts and circumstances, comprised under this general view of our affairs, would require more leisure than I have it in my power to devote to the subject at this period. Fortunately for me, Colo. Humphreys, with whom you are acquainted and who will probably have the pleasure of delivering this letter to you, will be able to explain our situation fully. To him, therefore, I refer you for all particulars: being with great esteem, dear Sir, &c.[49]

[46] In the writing of David Humphreys. The P. S. is in the writing of Washington.

[47] Paine's letter of this date and the key of the Bastile were delivered to Washington by John Rutledge, jr. The letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[48] The key is at Mount Vernon.

[49] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To COMTE D'ESTAING

New York, August 10, 1790.

Sir: Not knowing how far I may have a secure conveyance for this letter, which is merely designed to announce the receipt of your highly esteemed favor of the 20th of March last,[50] I forbear to enter into any discussions on the interesting and delicate subject you have unfolded. Let it be sufficient for the present to say, that I consider the plan a proof of your real patriotism and good understanding. Whether the Scheme will ever be feasible in its utmost extent, or what advantages may be drawn from it by some modification hereafter time alone must disclose. In the meantime for the tokens of your personal attachment to me, and extraordinary respect for my friend which you are pleased to manifest, I request you will have the goodness to accept my best thanks. With sentiments of the highest consideration etc.[51]

To DIEGO DE GARDOQUI

New York, August 10, 1790.

Sir: Colonel Humphreys, who, as you know, has been many years in my family, expects in his present tour to Europe to visit Spain. Should it be his good fortune to meet with you in that Kingdom, he will undoubtedly profit of the circumstance by renewing his acquaintance with you. In that case, he will have an opportunity of expressing on my part the sincere and great regard which he knows I entertain for you. And your civilities in return to him will be considered as very acceptable to me.

[50] In the *Washington Papers*, with a translation by Tobias Lear. It suggested that Louisiana be made an independent State.

[51] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

We have lately seen by the public Papers, that your Sovereign has been pleased to place you at the head of the Administration of the Revenues and Finances of the American Department. I am confident you will do me the justice to believe, Sir, that I rejoice extremely in your prosperity. On so honorable and confidential a mark of the Royal favor, I should certainly be the first to congratulate you in the most cordial manner. But at the sametime I must have candour enough to assure you, that I feel the most sensible regret that this circumstance, so flattering and advantageous to yourself, should forever cut us off from the hope of seeing you in this Country again. It is for the sake of your good alone that we shall be forced to acquiese; and you must not esteem it as an unmeaning Compliment when I say, that, I presume, no man in his most Catholic Majesty's dominions could be more acceptable to the Inhabitants of these States. That all persons who may be employed in the intercourse between the Dominions of his most Catholic Majesty and the United States may serve to promote a mutual good understanding, and to advance reciprocally the substantial interests of the two Nations (which, I am convinced, are not only entirely compatable with, but may be highly promotive to each other) is the constant and ardent wish of, Sir Your etc.[52]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

New York, August 10, 1790.

The little anecdote which you recall to mind, My dear Count, of your Countrymen at Rhode Island who burnt their mouths with the hot soup, while mine waited leisurely for it to cool, perhaps, when politically applied in the manner you have done, has not less truth than pleasantry in its resemblance of national

[52] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

characters.[53] But if there shall be no worse consequence resulting from too great eagerness in swallowing something so delightful as liberty, than that of suffering a momentary pain or making a ridiculous figure with a scalled mouth; upon the whole it may be said you Frenchmen have come off well, considering how immoderately you thirsted for the cup of liberty. And no wonder as you drank it to the bottom, that some licentiousness should have been mingled with the dregs.

To view your Resolution in another and more serious point of light. It was impossible, in such a Country, and during such a struggle, but that disagreeable things, and even great enormities in some instances must have happened. Too many doubtless have occurred. Not so many, however, have existed as the English News-Papers have attempted to make us believe. For had we credited all the evil stories we have seen in them, we should almost have set it down for granted that the race of Frenchmen were about becoming extinct, and their Country a desert. So many of you, on different occasions, have they killed. Happily for you, we remembered how our own armies, after having been all slain to a man in the English News Papers, came to life again and even performed prodigies of valour against that very Nation whose News-papers had so unmercifully destroyed them. Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Trumbull and some others have taught us to believe more cautiously and more correctly on these points.

Now I will conclude by saying a word about ourselves, as I am certain your friendship is not less interested in our fate, than ours is in that of your Nation. We have a good government in Theory, and are carrying it pretty happily into practice. In a government which depends so much in its first stages

[53] Rochambeau's letter of Apr. 11, 1790, to which this is an answer, is in the *Washington Papers*.

on public opinion, much circumspection is still necessary for those who are engaged in its administration. Fortunately the current of public sentiment runs with us, and all things hitherto seem to succeed according to our wishes. In the meantime population increases, land is cleared, commerce extended, manufactories, and Heaven smiles upon us with favorable seasons and abundant crops.

With sentiments of the sincerest esteem etc.[54]

To MARQUIS DE LA LUZERNE

New York, August 10, 1790.

Early in May last, I had the pleasure of addressing a letter to you, My dear Marquis, in which I dwelt pretty copiously on the state of affairs in this country at that time. Since then nothing very remarkable has occurred. The two great questions of funding the debt and fixing the seat of government have been agitated, as was natural, with a good deal of warmth as well as ability. These were always considered by me as questions of the most delicate and interesting nature which could possibly be drawn into discussion. They were more in danger of having convulsed the government itself than any other points. I hope they are now settled in as satisfactory a manner as could have been expected; and that we have a prospect of enjoying peace abroad, with tranquility at home. Congress is just on the point of adjourning; after which I propose to go to pass some time at Mount Vernon.

Colo. Humphreys, who will have the honor of putting this letter into your hands, can give you very particular intelligence respecting this Country and your *friends* in it, on whose number and fidelity you may count with the greatest confidence.

[54] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

For it is a serious truth, all classes of people in America remember your residence among them with a friendly mixture of satisfaction and regret the former for your good Offices and agreeable society, the latter for your absence and a despair of ever having the pleasure of seeing you again.

The acquaintance you have had with Colo. Humphreys, first in America and afterwards in France, supersedes the necessity of any introduction or recommendation from me. As you know fully the manner in which that Gentleman has been in my family and connected with me for many years, I will say nothing more on his subject, than that he expects to travel in several parts of Europe; and that, if it should be convenient to your excellency to give him letters to any characters of your nation in the Countries or Courts which he may happen to visit, I shall consider the interest you take on his behalf in a very acceptable and obliging point of light.

I would not forego so favorable an opportunity of renewing the professions of real esteem and consideration with which I have the honor etc.[55]

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

New York, August 11, 1790.

My dear Marquis: I have received your affectionate letter of the 17 of March[56] by one conveyance, and the token of victory[57] gained by Liberty over Despotism by another: for both which

[55] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[56] Sparks prints this letter, which is not now found in the *Washington Papers:* "Give me leave, my dear General, to present you with a picture of the Bastille just as it looked a few days after I had ordered its demolition, with the main key of the fortress of despotism. It is a tribute which I owe as a son to my adopted father, as an aid-de-camp to my general, as a missionary of liberty to its patriarch." The picture was sold at auction in Philadelphia in 1871.

[57] Key to the Bastile and picture of the fortress.

testimonials of your friendship and regard I pray you to accept my sincerest thanks.

In this great subject of triumph for the new World, and for humanity in general, it will never be forgotten how conspicuous a part you bore, and how much lustre you reflected on a country in which you made the first displays of character.

Happy am I, my good friend, that, amidst all the tremendous benefits which have assailed your political Ship, you have had address and fortitude enough to steer her hitherto safely through the quick-sands and rocks, which threatened instant destruction on every side; and your young King in all things seems so well disposed to conform to the wishes of the Nation. In such an important, such a hazardous voyage, when every thing dear and sacred is embarked, you know full well my best wishes have never left you for a moment. Yet I will avow the accounts we received through the English papers (which were sometimes our only channels for information) caused our fears of a failure almost to exceed our expectations of success.

How much will the *Concerned* be indebted to the exertions of the principal Pilot, when the Ship shall, at the end of her dangerous course, be securely harboured in the haven of national tranquility, freedom, and glory, to which she is destined, and which I hope she is near attaining.

Congress, after having been in session ever since last fall are to adjourn in two or three days. Though they have been much perplexed in their proceedings on some questions of a local and intricate nature; yet they have done a great deal of important business, and will leave the public affairs in as satisfactory a state as could reasonably have been expected. One of the last acts of the executive has been the conclusion of a treaty of Peace and Friendship with the Creek Nation of Indians, who have been considerably connected with the Spanish Provinces and

hostile to the Georgian frontiers since the war with Great Britain. McGillivray and about thirty of the Kings and Head Men are here: This event will leave us in peace from one end of our borders to the other; except where it may be interrupted by a small refugee banditti of Cherokees and Shawanese, who can be easily chastised or even extirpated if it shall become necessary: But this will only be done in an inevitable extremity; since the *basis* of our proceedings with the Indian Nations has been, and shall be *justice,* during the period in which I may have any thing to do in the administration of this government.

Our negotiations and transactions, though many of them are on a small scale as to the objects, ought to be governed by the immutable principles of equity, as much as your European politics, which are more extended in their compass. How your wars proceed in the North or in whose favor they are likely to terminate; what probability there may be that the misunderstandings between Britain and Spain should issue in an open rupture, and what other powerful Nations, in that event, will be drawn in to take an active part on one side or the other, are subjects of vast magnitude, on which we, in these distant regions, must abstrain from deciding positively even in our own minds, until we shall have more unequivocal data to go upon. It seems to be our policy to keep in the situation in which nature has placed us, to observe a strict neutrality, and to furnish others with those good things of subsistence, which they may want, and which our fertile land abundantly produces, if circumstances and events will permit us so to do. This letter is committed to Colonel Humphreys to carry to London, whither he is going. Should he, by any accident be in France, he will be able to give you a full state of our affairs and prospects. Gradually recovering from the distresses in which the war left us, patiently advancing in our task of civil government, unentangled

in the crooked politics of Europe, wanting scarcely any thing but the free navigation of the Mississipi (which we must have and as certainly shall have as we remain a Nation) I have supposed, that, with the undeviating exercise of a just, steady, and prudent national policy, we shall be the gainers, whether the powers of the old world may be in peace or war, but more especially in the latter case. In that case our importance will certainly encrease, and our friendship be courted. Our dispositions would not be indifferent to Britain or Spain. Why will not Spain be wise and liberal at once? It would be easy to annihilate all causes of quarrels between that Nation and the United States at this time. At a future period that may be far from being a fact. Should a war take place between Great Britain and Spain, I conceive from a great variety of concurring circumstances there is the highest probability that the Floridas will soon be in the possession of the former. Adieu, my dear Marquis! Believe me to be assuredly and affectionately Your etc.

P. S. Not for the value of the thing, my dear Marquis, but as a memorial and because they are the manufacture of the City, I send you herewith a pair of shoe buckles.[58]

To THE SENATE

United States, August 11, 1790.

Gentlemen of the Senate: Although the treaty with the Creeks[59] may be regarded as the main foundation of the southwestern frontier of the United States, yet in order fully to effect so desirable an object the treaties which have been entered into with the other tribes in that quarter must be faithfully performed on our parts.

[58] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[59] The ratification of the Creek Treaty is dated August 13, and on August 14 Washington issued his proclamation announcing the treaty in effect. A broadside of this proclamation is in the Virginia State Library. (See p. 92, *post*.)

During the last year I laid before the Senate a particular statement of the case of the Cherokees.[60] By a reference to that paper it will appear that the United States formed a treaty with the Cherokees thereby placed themselves under the protection of the United States, and had a boundary assigned them.

That the White people settled on the frontiers had openly violated the said boundary by intruding on the Indian lands.

That the United States in Congress assembled did on the first day of September 1788 issue their proclamation forbidding such unwarrantable intrusions and injoining all those who had settled upon the hunting grounds of the Cherokees to depart with their families and effects without the loss of time, as they would answer their disobedience to the injunctions and prohibitions expressed, at their peril.

But information has been received that notwithstanding the said treaty and proclamation upwards of five hundred families have settled on the Cherokee Lands exclusively of those settled between the fork of French Broad and Holstein Rivers mentioned in the said treaty.

As the obstructions to a proper conduct on this matter have been removed since it was mentioned to the Senate on the 22d of August 1789, by the accession of North Carolina to the present Union, and the cessions of the Land in question, I shall conceive myself bound to exert the powers entrusted to me by the Constitution in order to carry into faithful execution the treaty of Hopewell, unless it shall be thought proper to attempt to arrange a new boundary with the Cherokees embracing the settlements, and compensating the Cherokees for the cessions they

[60] See Washington's message to the Senate, Aug. 7, 1789.

On August 11 the Senate resolved that the treaty at Hopewell with the Cherokees be carried into execution at the discretion of the President, and that the Senate guarantee the Cherokee boundary.

On August 12 Congress adjourned, to convene again on the first Monday in December, 1790.

shall make on the occasion. On this point therefore I state the following questions and request the advice of the Senate thereon.

1st. Is it the judgment of the Senate that overtures shall be made to the Cherokees to arrange a new boundary so as to embrace the settlement made by the white people since the treaty of Hopewell in November 1785?

2. If so, shall compensation to the amount of dollars annually of dollars in gross be made to the Cherokees for the land they shall relinquish, holding the occupiers of the land accountable to the United States for its value?

3dly. Shall the United States stipulate solemnly to guarantee the new boundary which may be arranged?[61]

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, August 12, 1790.

Sir: In reply to the wish expressed in your letter of this date, to go to Philadelphia on Monday next, I can only observe, that my concurrence therein will not be withheld if there are no obstructions of an official nature; and this you can best ascertain yourself. I would, however, just mention, that as it may be necessary for me, in pursuance of the law to regulate trade and commerce with the Indian Tribes, to issue a Proclamation enjoining upon the People of the United States a strict observance of such treaties and regulations as are concluded with, and made respecting the Indian tribes, and forbidding any encroachments to be made by them on the grounds or territories of the Indians, it might be best for you to see the Secretary of State or the Secretary of War, or both, upon this subject before your departure. I am etc.[61]

[61] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

New York, August 13, 1790.

Sir: The Session of Congress having closed, and it being my intention to go to Virginia as soon as the public business will permit; and wishing, during my absence from the Seat of Government, to have my mind as free from public cares as circumstances will allow; I am desirous of having such matters as may, by Law or otherwise, require the agency or sanction of the President of the United States, brought to view before my departure. I therefore request that you will cause such business, within your department, as may be necessary to receive the aid or approbation of the President, submitted to me as soon as its nature will permit; particularly

Regulations for trade and intercourse with the Indian Tribes, agreeably to the Act.

And information and opinions on the following points.

Whether any other, and what steps shall be taken with them to restrain their Hositilities.

Whether the orders given, and measures adopted, are adequate to the Peace of the Western Frontiers? If not, what further is to be done for this purpose?

Upon the expediency and policy of a proclamation forbidding encroachments upon the Territory of the Indians or treating with them contrary to the Law lately passed.

Instructions for the Governor of the Ceded Territory So. of the Ohio. Where ought the Governor to reside?

What notice should be taken of the Insult offered to Major Doughty?[62]

[62] Maj. John Doughty, on a mission to the Chickasaws and Choctaw Nations, was treacherously fired upon by a party of Cherokees, Shawanese, and Creeks, killing 5 and wounding 6 others of his little party of 15. Washington's "Diary" of May 2, 1790, adds: "obliging him (when within six miles of Ochappo the place of Rendezvous,)

What steps should be taken with respect to his recommendation of a Post at the mouth of the Tennessee?

Other measures than those pursued by the present contractors for suppling the Western Posts ought to be adopted, that the Troops in that Country may be more efficiently employed in sudden emergencies and the Posts better secured.

Have any orders been given concerning the condemned Soldiers? I am &c.[63]

PROCLAMATION

City of New York, August 14, 1790.

Whereas a treaty of peace and friendship between the United States and the Creek Nation was made and concluded on the 7th day of the present month of August; and

Whereas I have, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, in due form ratified the said treaty;

Now, therefore, to the end that the same may be observed and performed with good faith on the part of the United States, I have ordered the said treaty to be herewith published; and I do hereby enjoin and require all officers of the United States, civil and military, and all other citizens and inhabitants thereof, faithfully to observe and fulfill the same.[64]

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

New York, August 14, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have lately received a letter and my Account from Wakelin Welch and Son of London, dated June 1st by which I perceive there was at that time a balance of mine in their hands

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to Retreat down the Tennessee and which he was able to effect by his gallant behaviour and good conduct; notwithstanding the superior force of the enemy and a pursuit of 4 hours and attempt to board the Barge in wch. he was."

[63] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

[64] The text is from Richardson's *Messages and Papers of the Presidents,* which was taken from the *Gazette of the United States* (New York), Sept. 15, 1790.

of only £95..16 sterling. This is a less sum than I imagined was there; and as their letter mentions their having informed you of the balance, and it is probable your draughts upon them may exceed that sum, exclusive of those Articles which I last requested you to get, I have requested Colonel Humphreys to put into your hands a bill of exchange drawn by William Constable and Co. Messrs. Phyn, Ellices & Inglish for £60 Sterling, if he should see you in London. Should you not be there at the time of his arrival, he is requested to enquire if W. Welch & Son have answered your orders beyond the balance in their hands, and in case they have, he will leave the bill with them. He is also desired, if this bill is put into your hands, and shou'd not be equal to the amount due you, to pay the balance for me. With very sincere esteem etc.[65]

[65] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On August 15 Washington, accompanied by Jefferson, Governor Clinton, Judge John Blair, Senator Theodore Foster, of Rhode Island, and Representatives Nicholas Gilman, of New Hampshire, and William Loughton Smith, of South Carolina, David Humphreys, William Jackson, and Thomas Nelson, embarked on the packet *Hancock* for Newport, R. I., which was reached August 17.

On August 17 Washington received and answered an address from the Freemen of Newport. This address is dated in the "Letter Book" August 16, and Washington's reply is entered immediately following it therein. Sparks prints the reply under date of August 16.

On this same day (August 17) Washington received and answered an address from the master, wardens, and brethren of King David's Lodge of Masons in Newport. Both address and answer are entered in the "Letter Book." In the answer Washington said: "Being persuaded, that a just application of the principles, on which the masonic faternity is founded, must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the society, and be considered by them a deserving brother."

On this same day (August 17) Washington also received and answered addresses from the Hebrew congregation of Newport, and from the clergy of Newport. In replying to the former he said: "It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily the government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support. . . . May the children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants, while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig-tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid."

And to the latter he said: "I am inexpressibly happy that by the smiles of divine Providence, my weak but honest endeavors to serve my country have hitherto been

To GOVERNOR BEVERLEY RANDOLPH

United States, August 24, 1790.

Sir: I had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of the 4th Inst. with its inclosures, just as I was about to embark on a visit to Rhode Island, which has prevented my answering it 'till my return from thence.

Previous to the receipt of your Excellencys letter I had nominated and appointed the three Gentlemen who had heretofore acted in that office, Commissioners for settling accounts between the United States and individual States.

Although I received no official information of the report of two of the Commissioners to the House of Representatives respecting the Accounts of Virginia; yet the purport of it, and the effect which it had upon the Gentlemen from that State were communicated to me. Upon a knowledge of this circumstance I felt myself much embarrassed, and was led to make very particular inquiry into the official conduct and abilities of those

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crowned with so much success, and apparently given such satisfaction to those in whose cause they were exerted. The same benignant influence, together with the concurrent support of all real friends to their country will still be necessary to enable me to be in any degree useful to this numerous and free People over whom I am called to preside." These addresses and answers are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On August 18, at 4 p. m., Washington arrived at Providence, where he was presented with addresses from the Legislature, the inhabitants of Providence, and the Corporation of Rhode Island College, to all of which he returned answers. In replying to the Rhode Island Legislature, he said: "A change in the national constitution, conformed to experience and the circumstances of our country, has been most happily effected by the influence of reason alone; in this change the liberty of the citizen continues unimpaired, while the energy of government is so encreased as to promise full protection to all the pursuits of science and industry; together with the firm establishment of public credit, and the vindication of our national character. It remains with the people themselves to preserve and promote the great advantages of their political and natural situation; nor ought a doubt to be entertained that men, who so well understand the value of social happiness, will ever cease to appreciate the blessings of a free, equal, and efficient government." These addresses, with Washington's replies, are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On August 19 Washington left Providence in Captain Brown's packet, *Hancock*, and arrived at New York on August 22.

Gentlemen before I gave the nomination of Commissioners to the Senate. The result of my investigations was favourable to the characters of the Gentlemen. They had, so far as I could learn, conducted themselves with integrity; and, except in the instance of the above report, no complaints had been uttered against them; and in this case, they went not to an impeachment of their integrity, but rather of their discretion in giving an opinion, where facts only should have been stated; and the reception which this report has met with, and the comments upon it, will in my judgment, be such a lessen for future caution, that the State of Virginia will have no cause to apprehend a premature or uncandid decision upon any accounts which may come before them from that State.

Under these circumstances, and upon the fullest consideration I could give the subject, I could not see any just cause for removing men from office whose integrity and abilities bore the test of investigation, and who, undoubtedly, had a knowledge in the business of the department, equal, if not superior to others who had never been engaged in it.

I have entered thus minutely into this business with your Excellency as it appears to be a matter in which the State of Virginia feels peculiarly interested, that you may see I have not been inattentive to a subject of this magnitude. I say nothing of the peculiar delicacy and embarrassment which I have felt on this occasion, as being a native and citizen of Virginia; you will more readily conceive than I can express it. I have the honor etc.

P. S. Your Excellencys letter of the 10th of July enclosing a copy of a Certificate respecting the Lead Mines in Virginia, came duly to hand; but not requiring any particular answer I have delayed the acknowledgment thereof 'till this time.[66]

[H.S.P.]

[66] In the writing of Tobias Lear.

To MARTHA DANGERFIELD BLAND

New York, August 25, 1790.

Madam: The letter which you did me the honor to write to me on 4. of July, with its enclosures (which are herewith returned) has been received. This late acknowledgement of the receipt of it requires some apology, which I trust your goodness will perceive is well founded in the uncommon multiplicity of public business which pressed, on all sides, upon me towards the close of the session of Congress, and the time which it required to make the necessary enquiries into the subjects of your letter.

In regard to the boat captured by Colonel Bland; as I had no knowledge of the circumstance myself, or, if I had when it took place, the length of time which has since elapsed has driven all recollection of it from my mind; I wrote to Colonel Biddle, (who was one of the persons mentioned in Colonel Bland's certificate) for information on the subject, and I have the honor to enclose his answer to my letter, which contains all the information he is able to give or obtain; and the German Officer, (Colonel Lutterloh) who is mentioned, living in Wilmington North Carolina, prevented my getting any information from him so early as you could obtain it yourself, and which I am sure he will give as far as he is able, with pleasure, upon your application to him. You will, Madam, however, permit me to mention a circumstance which I think appears

On August 24 Lear wrote to John Marsden Pintard, that he had been "directed by the President to inform you that it is with regret he must decline the honor which the St. Tammany's society would do him by having his Portrait taken. The President is detained now in this City only by some particular business with the heads of the Executive Departments, in which he is *constantly* engaged, and desireous of dispatching as soon as possible, being anxious to get to Virginia. He therefore requests that you will be so good as to present his best thanks to the society for their politeness, and he trusts they will consider his declining their request in its proper light." Lear's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

unfavorable to your recovering any thing from this capture. The length of time which has elapsed without any enquiry having been made into the subject, naturally involves it in that obscurity, to which all events of that nature were liable in those time of confusion and hazard, to say nothing of the want of proper documents, which are considered as necessary to substantiate claims on the public; and whatever may have been Colonel Bland's motives, during his life, for withholding his claim, yet, as he was engaged in public business, and constantly in the way of gaining information on a subject of this nature it does not seem at all probable that any thing can be recovered from this source after his death.

I have caused an examination to be made at the Comptroller's office, relative to the subject of the letter, which Colonel Bland received from Mr. Everleigh,[67] Comptroller of the Treasury, and find that the sum of money therein mentioned was deposited in the hands of a Committee of Congress in the year 1781, of which Colonel Bland was a Member, and by letters which have been received at the Comptroller's office from several Gentlemen of the Committee in reply to the circular written to them by the Comptroller, it appears that they considered the sum placed in their hands as subject to such expences as might arise in the course of the business which they were sent to transact, and that they were not expected to render in a particular account thereof; and further that they conceive the sum mentioned to have been returned by Colonel Bland into the Treasury, was all that remained after the necessary expenditure of their mission.

It would have been peculiarly pleasing to me, Madam, to have rendered you such service in this business, as would have been commensurate with your wishes; but your good sense will

[67] Nicholas Eveleigh.

readily point out to you the necessity of confining myself to my private character in this matter, as any interference in my public capacity would be deemed improper.

Before I conclude I pray you to accept my sincere condolence on your late and great loss, and the assurances of being,

With great respect and esteem, Madam, Your etc.[68]

To GOVERNOR CHARLES PINCKNEY

New York, August 26, 1790.

Sir: I had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of the 4th. of July by Mr. C ;[69] and agreeably to your request, I have now the pleasure to inform you, that, a treaty of Peace formed upon just and liberal principles, has been entered into between the United States and the Creek Nation of Indians; a printed copy of which, with a Proclamation[70] adjoined, I have now the honor to enclose.

I should have communicated this intelligence to your Excellency immediately on the ratification of the treaty, as you requested, but that I wished to accompany it with a copy of the Articles and Proclamation, which, owing to some untoward circumstances were not struck off so soon as I could have wished; and when they were, my absence, on a visit to Rhode Island, deprived me of an opportunity of sending them by a vessel which sailed from this place for Charleston before my return; and as a water conveyance is generally more speedy than by land, I have waited several days for the sailing of the Vessel by which I forward this to your Excellency. With very great esteem I have the honor etc.[68]

[68] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[69] Left blank in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.
[70] Of Aug. 14, 1790.

PROCLAMATION

New York, August 26, 1790.

Whereas it hath at this time become peculiarly necessary, to warn the citizens of the United States against a violation of the treaties, made at Hopewell, on the river Keowawa; on the third and tenth days of January, in the year of our lord 1786, between the United States, and the Choctaw and Chicasaw nations of Indians; and to enforce the act, entitled "an act to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes", copies of which treaties and act are hereto annexed: I have therefore thought fit to require, and do by these presents require, all officers of the United States, as well civil as military, and all other citizens and inhabitants thereof, to govern themselves according to the treaties and act aforesaid; as they will answer the contrary at their peril.[71] [MS. H. S.]

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, August 26, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have now before me your favor of the 24th. inst. inclosing the bill and receipt for a dictionary.[72] The waiter you will be so good as to take on the Presidents Acct. and keep it with you till we remove to Philadelphia.

The President will probable be in Philadelphia about the 3d. of Septr. and as he intends to tarry there 2 or 3 days he has directed me to request that you will engage lodgings for him, during that time, at Mrs. Houses,[73] if she can accommodate all

[71] In the writing of and countersigned by Thomas Jefferson.

[72] A German and English dictionary which the President obtained for the use of the German gardener.

[73] Mrs. Mary House. Her establishment was at Fifth and Market Streets.

of his family who will attend him. They are as follow, The President and Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Washington's two little grand Children, Mr. Nelson and Major Jackson, two maids, 4 White Servants and 4 black do. If Mrs. House can accommodate this number, the Horses of which there are 16 will be sent to Mr. Hiltzimers[74] Stables of which you will be so good as to give him Notice. Should Mrs. House not be able to accommodate this number of persons The President then wishes you to engage lodgings for all at the City Tavern, and in that case, the Horses will be kept at the same place and notice need not be given to Mr. Hiltzimer. The President would prefer Lodgings at Mrs. Houses if they can be obtained.

I will now, Sir, agreeably to your request inform you of the arrangement, as to time, which the President has made for his Journey. He is detained in New York to complete some business in the Treasury and War departments which the Heads of these departments inform him will be finished by Saturday; in which case he will leave this place on Monday noon,[75] reach Elizabeth Town that Night, Brunswick on Tuesday night, Trenton on Wednesday Night, Breakfast at Bristol on Thursday and proceed from thence to Philadelphia. This I know is his present intention and if the business which detains him, is completed on Saturday, and no unforseen circumstances occur to retard his progress, it will be carried into effect. He will travel slow in the beginning of his Journey as he has a Number of horses some of which are young and all in that State, as to exercise, which requires moderation at first setting out.

I give you this information in compliance with your request; but at the same time I must repeat what I observed in a former

[74] Jacob Hiltzheimer.
[75] Aug. 30, 1790.

letter, that as little ceremony and parade may be made as possible; for the President wishes to command his own time, which these things always forbid in a greater or less degree, and they are to him fatiguing and oftentimes painful. He wishes not to exclude himself from the sight or conversation of his fellow citizens; but their eagerness to shew their affection frequently imposes a heavy tax on him.

I shall not accompany the President, but remain in New York until arrangements are made, for the President directs me to observe, that two lodging Rooms will accommodate himself, Mrs. Washington, the children and two maids; and one Room will serve the two Gentlemen. The servants she knows how she can best accommodate. You will be good enough to give the President timely information of the House in which he is to lodge that he may drive directly there on his arrival. I am, etc.[76]

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

New York, August 26, 1790.

Sir: I am exceedingly sorry for the cause of your detention in Philadelphia, of which your letter of the 24th. instant informed me. But as I expect to leave this place on Monday next for Virginia, it would not be in your power to arrive here, by that time, after the receipt of this. There will, therefore, be no necessity for your leaving Mrs. Randolph in her present situation, to meet me in New York. I am etc.[77]

[76] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On August 26 Washington replied to a congratulatory address of the Governor and Council of North Carolina, dated June 25. Both the address and the reply are entered together in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[77] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

QUERIES TO THE HEADS OF THE DEPARTMENTS[78]

(Secret)

United States, August 27, 1790.

Provided the dispute between Great Britain and Spain should come to the decision of Arms, from a variety of circumstances (individually unimportant and inconclusive, but very much the reverse when compared and combined) there is no doubt in my mind, that New Orleans and the Spanish Posts above it on the Mississipi will be among the first attempts of the former, and that the reduction of them will be undertaken by a combined operation from Detroit.

The *Consequences* of having so formidable and enterprising a people as the British on both our flanks and rear, with their navy in front, as they respect our Western Settlements which may be seduced thereby, as they regard the Security of the Union and its commerce with the West Indies, are too obvious to need enumeration.

What then should be the Answer of the Executive of the United States to Ld Dorchester, in case he should apply for permission to march Troops through the Territory of the sd States from Detroit to the Mississippi?[79]

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[78] The original wrapper is thus labeled by Tobias Lear: "Quæries to and opinions of the Vice President—the heads of the Departments and Chief Justice of the U. S. of what Answer shd. be given if a Request shd be made to march troops from the British territory to the Mississippi."

[79] Maj. George Beckwith, aide to Lord Dorchester, had presented a memorandum to the President, July 8, 1790, which, in Hamilton's writing and indorsed by Washington, is in the *Hamilton Papers*. Washington's "Diary" (July 14) records "had some further conversation to day with the Chief Justice and Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the business which Majr. Beckwith was come on. The result—To treat his communications very civilly—to intimate, delicately, that they carried no marks official or authentic, nor in speaking of Alliance, did they convey any definite meaning by which the precise object of the British Cabinet could be discovered. In a word, that the Secretary of the Treasury was to extract as much as he could from Major Beckwith and to report to me, without committing, by any assurances whatever, the Government of the U. States, leaving it entirely free to pursue, unreproached, such a line of conduct in the dispute as her interest (and honour) shall dictate." The report of

What notice ought to be taken of the measure, if it should be undertaken without leave, which is the most probable proceeding of the two?

The opinion of is requested in writing upon the above Statement.[80]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Friday Morng., July [August] 27, 1790.

Dear Sir: Enclosed is the report (I mentioned to you on our Passage to Rhode-Island) of the Officer who was directed to explore the Navigation of Big-Beaver &ca. When you have read, and taken such extracts from it as you may be inclined to do, please to return the papers to me, as they will have a place with some other Papers I mean to take with me to Virginia.

The short and rough Extracts also enclosed, were taken at the time of reading another report of the Ouabash River Navign. Yrs. &ca.[81]

To ELIPHALET FITCH[82]

New York, August 28, 1790.

Sir: In obedience to the command of the President of the United States, I have the honor to inform you that the

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Hamilton's interview with Beckwith, in Hamilton's writing, is dated July 22, and is in the *Washington Papers*.

[80] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys, who has noted "(Addressed thus seperately to the Secretary of State, the Secy. of the Treasury, & the Secretary of War)—addressed to Mr Jay thus: 'Mr Jay will oblige the Presidt. of the United States by giving his opinion on the above Statement.'" Signed copies are in the *Hamilton* and *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

The "Queries" were sent to Vice President Adams, with the following note: "Being very desirous of obtaining such aids and information as will enable me to form a just opinion upon the subject of the enclosed paper, in case the events therein mentioned should take place; I have taken the liberty to submit to you for your consideration, requesting that you will favor me with an opinion thereon." This note is entered in the "Letter Book."

The replies of Jefferson and Jay are dated August 28; those of Adams and Knox August 29. All four replies are in the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress. Hamilton's reply, dated September 15, is also in the *Washington Papers*.

[81] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[82] Of Kingston, Jamaica.

Pamphlets relative to the Slave trade which you have been so obliging as to present to him thro' the hands of the Vice President have been received, and he requests you to accept his best thanks for the same with acknowledgments for your very polite letter which accompanied them.[83] With due consideration I have the honor etc.[84]

To THE VICE PRESIDENT

New York, August 28, 1790.

Sir: The Resolution of the Board for the Reduction of the Public Debt[85] of the 27th. of August 1790, which has been submitted to me meets my ideas fully on the subject, and is enclosed with my approbation. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.[86]

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

New York, August 28, 1790.

Sir: Your favor of July 20th. came safely to hand, together with the Memorial of Monsieur de Latombe[87] of the 7th. of June, and the Resolve of the Legislature of Massachusetts of the 24th. of the same month. On considering the nature of the difficulties which have occurred in the execution of the Consular Convention, they appeared to be such as could not be removed but by a legislative Act. When these papers were received the

[83] Fitch's letter of May 10, 1790, is in the *Washington Papers*, but the pamphlets mentioned are not now found therein.

[84] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[85] This board consisted of the Vice President, the Chief Justice, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General. The board's report to Congress (Dec. 21, 1790) is printed in the *Annals of Congress*.

[86] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[87] On July 26 Washington transmitted this memorial and a complaint from American citizens settled in the French West Indies to the Secretary of State with a note in the third person, in the writing of Tobias Lear. This note is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

session of Congress was already drawn so near to a close, that it was not thought expedient to propose to them the taking up at that time a Subject which was new, and might be found difficult. It will remain therefore for consideration at their next meeting in December.

With due consideration I have the honor etc.[88]

To NOAH WEBSTER

New York, August 28, 1790.

Sir: I have received your letter dated the 28th. of July, and accompanied with the volumes which you was pleased to present to me: for which I request you will accept my thanks.

Being on the eve of my departure for Virginia, it is impossible for me at present to do anything more on the subject of your letter, than just to make two or three remarks which have occurred in the moment of perusal. I think your train of reasoning in general good, and that the application of the principle in practical husbandry may be of considerable utility. This opinion is derived in part from facts; for your theory respecting vegetable manure has formed a part of my system of experiments for several years past. Buck-Wheat, sowed expressly for the purpose of manure, and, when in its most luxuriant state, turned into the earth by ploughing, has been found beneficial to the Crop, but not fully to answer my expectations. I cannot now give a detail of the Causes which I conjecture operated in rendering the effect less visible than I had calculated it would be; and I fear I shall not have leisure myself to repeat the experiments.

I cannot suppose there would be anything improper in bringing your observations on so interesting a matter immediately to

[88] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

the consideration of some agricultural Institution. But, in truth, I have so many objects which claim my attention that I must hasten to conclude, with sentiments of regard etc.[89] [N. Y. P. L.]

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of New York, August 28, 1790.

Having thought fit to commit to you the charge of borrowing on behalf of the United States a sum or sums not exceeding in the whole Fourteen Millions of Dollars pursuant to the several Acts, the one entitled, "An Act making provision for the debt of the United States", the other entitled, "An Act making provision for the reduction of the Public Debt"

I do hereby make known to you, that in the execution of the said trust, you are to observe and follow the orders and directions following Vizt. Except where otherwise especially directed by me you shall employ [an agent] in the negotiation of any Loan or Loans which may be made in any foreign Country.

You shall borrow or cause to be borrowed on the best terms which shall be found practicable (and within the limitations prescribed by Law as to time of repayment and rate of interest) such sum or sums as shall be sufficient to discharge, as well all instalments or parts of the principal of the foreign Debt, which now are due or shall become payable to the end of the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety one, as all interest and arrears of interest, which now are, or shall become due in respect to the said Debt, to the same end of the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety one; And you shall apply or cause to be

[89] In the writing of Tobias Lear.

On August 28 Lear wrote to John Churchman, thanking him, for the President, for his "Magnetic Atlas or Veriation Chart." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

applied the moneys which shall be so borrowed with all convenient despatch to the payment of the said instalments and parts of the principal and interest and arrears of the interest of the said debt. You shall not extend the amount of the loan which you shall make or cause to be made, beyond the sum which shall be necessary for completing such payment, unless it can be done upon terms more advantageous to the United States than those upon which the residue of the said debt shall stand or be. But if the said residue or any part of the same can be paid off by new Loans upon terms of advantage to the United States you shall cause such further loans, as may be requisite to that end, to be made, and the proceeds thereof to be applied accordingly. And for carrying into effect the objects and purposes aforesaid, I do hereby further empower you to make, or cause to be made with whomsoever it may concern such Contract or Contracts being of a nature relative thereto, as shall be found needful and conductive to the interest of the United States.

If any negotiation with any prince or State to whom any part of the said Debt may be due, should be requisite, the same shall be carried on thro' the person, who in capacity of Minister, Chargés des Affaires or otherwise, now is, or hereafter shall be charged with transacting the affairs of the United States with such Prince or State, for which purpose I shall direct the secretary of State, with whom you are in this behalf to consult and concert, to cooperate with you.[90]

To CAPTAIN THOMAS RANDALL

New York, August 30, 1790.

Sir: On the 2d. of May 1789, I wrote to you requesting that my acknowledgments might be offered to the Gentlemen who

[90] These Instructions are followed in the "Letter Book" by a copy of the commission to Hamilton to negotiate the loan, dated August 28.

had presented an elegant Barge to me, on my arrival in this City. As I am, at this moment, about commencing my journey to Virginia, and consequently shall have no farther occasion for the use of the Barge, I must now desire that you will return it in my name, and with my best thanks, to the original Propriators. At the sametime I shall be much obliged to you, if you will have the goodness to add on my part, that in accepting their beautiful present, I considered it as a pledge of that real urbanity, which I am happy in declaring I have experienced on every occasion, during my residence among them: that I ardently wish every species of prosperity may be the constant portion of the respectable citizens of New York; and that I shall always retain a grateful remembrance of the polite attention of those citizens in general, and of those in particular to whom the contents of this Note are addressed. I am etc.[91]

To TOBIAS LEAR

City of New Work, August 30, 1790.

Whereas it may be necessary, during my absence from the Seat of Government to pay certain monies and accts. out of the fund of ten thousand Dollars appropriated to the discharge of Contingent Expenses of Government by a law passed on the 26th day of March 1790; I therefore do authorize Tobias Lear, my Secretary, to direct such payment to be made in my name, out of said fund, as may come properly within the Same, provided that previous to such direction for payment, all accounts, demands &c. shall be exhibited to the Secretary of the Treasury, and shall be pronounced by him to come properly and clearly within the Law making the above appropriation. And I moreover certify that three payments which have been made out of

[91] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

said fund previous to this time, viz. one for Seals procured for the Supreme and Circuit courts of the United States, amounting to ninety one dollars and 8/100; one to Jeremiah Wadsworth for monies advanced and payed to him for the purpose of taking up and securing certain persons who had counterfeited public Securities, amounting to one thousand and sixty one dollars; and one for a seal procured for the District Court of Connecticut, amounting to Eight Dollars were by my order.[92]

To REVEREND JOHN RODGERS

New York, August 30, 1790.

Sir: The President of the United States, on leaving the City this morning ordered me to deposit in the hands of the Society in New York, for the relief of distressed Debtors confined in Prison, Twenty Guineas, which he requests may be applied in such manner as will best answer the benevolent purposes of the Institution.

I have now the honor to inform you, Sir, that the above sum is ready to be delivered whenever it may be called for by the Society. I am etc.[93]

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[92] The text is from the *Letters from George Washington to Tobias Lear* (Bixby Collection, Rochester: 1905).

[93] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On August 30 Lear wrote to Clement Biddle from New York: "The President left us this morning, and if He meets no interruption on his journey he will be in Philadelphia on Thursday as I mentioned in my last.

"I have sent by the old line of Stages a Trunk and a set of Harness which could not be carried on with the Presidents Baggage. I have taken the liberty to address them to your care. The Trunk Mrs. Washington may want in Phila. and if she should not have further occasion for it on her Journey afterwards it had better be sent to Mount Vernon with the Harness by water as it will be expensive sending it by the Stages. The Harness will not be wanted on the Road therefore that may be sent by water at all events. I have directed it to be packed up and covered with a coarse cloth that it may not be injured. The expence of the carriage to Phila. I will discharge here at the same time that I pay for the Stage Horses which the President employs in that line." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, September 5, 1790.

Dear Sir: After a pleasant Journey we arrived in this City about 2 Oclock on thursday last. Tomorrow we proceed (if Mrs. Washingtons health,[94] for she has been much indisposed since she came here) towards Mount Vernon.

The House of Mrs. R. Morris had, previous to my arrival, been taken by the Corporation for my residence. It is the best they could get. It is, I believe, the best *single House* in the City; yet, without additions it is inadequate to the *commodious* accomodation of my family. These, I believe, will be made.

The first floor contains only too public Rooms (except one for the *upper* Servants). The second floor will have two public (drawing) Rooms, and with the aid of one room with the partition in it in the back building will be Sufficient for the accomodation of Mrs. Washington and the Children, and their Maids; besides affording me a small place for a private Study and dressing Room. The third Story will furnish you and Mrs. Lear with a good lodging room, a public Office (for there is no place below for one) and two Rooms for the Gentlemen of the family. The Garret has four good Rooms which must serve Mr. and Mrs. Hyde[95] (unless they should prefer the room over the wash House); William, and such Servants as it may not be better to place in the addition (as proposed) to the Back Building. There is a room over the Stable (without a fire place, but by means of a Stove) may serve the Coachman and Postilions; and there is a smoke House, which, possibly, may be more useful to me for the accomodation of Servants than for Smoking of meat. The intention of the addition to the Back building is

[94] An inadvertent omission here.
[95] John Hyde, the steward, and his wife.

to provide a Servants Hall, and one or two (as it will afford) lodging rooms for the Servants; especially those who are coupled. There is a very good Wash House adjoining to the Kitchen (under one of the rooms already mentioned). There are good Stables, but for 12 Horses only, and a Coach House which will hold all my Carriages.

Speaking of Carriages, I have left my Coach to receive a *thorough* repair against I return (which I expect will happen before the first of December) and I request you will visit Mr. Clark[96] (into whose hands it is committed) often, to see it well done; and that I may not be disappointed in the time allowed him for the completion which is by the 25th. of November. The Harness is also left with him, and he has my ideas also on this subject: generally they are, if the Wheel Harness (which I understand was left at New York) can be made complete, and to look as well as if they were New, then, and in that case, he is to make a set of Pole end Harness to suit them, both to be plated; but if this cannot be accomplished, the set is to be made entirely new, and in the best stile.

I have requested Colo. Biddle to take measures for laying in wood for me, this being, he thinks the proper time for doing it, and to draw upon you for the amount of Cost.

The pressure of business under which I laboured for several days before I left New-York, allowed me no time to enquire who, of the female Servants, it was proposed or thought advisable to remove here besides the Wives of the footmen, namely James and Fidas. The Washer Women I believe are good, but as they, or one of them at least, has a family of Children, quere whether it is necessary to incumber the march, and the family afterwards, with them? I neither contradict or advise the

[96] David & Francis Clark, carriage makers, of Philadelphia.

measure, your own judgment, and the circumstances of the case must decide the point: but unless there is better reasons than I am acquainted with for bringing Mrs. Lewis, her daughter, and their families along, they had better, I should conceive, be left: but as I never investigated the subject I will give no decisive opinion thereon.

As Mr. Hyde some little time before I left New York expressed some dissatisfaction; signifying that he could neither enjoy under the conduct of the Servants the happiness he wished; or render those services he thought might be expected from him; it might be well for you, before I am at the expence of his removal, to know, decidedly, what his determination is, and his views with respect to a continuance. There can be no propriety in sadling me with the cost of his transportation, and that of his baggage, if he has it in contemplation to leave me at, or soon after his arrival. And I am the rather inclined to make this suggestion *now* as time will allow you to scrutinize his accts. and to form a good comparative view of them with Francis's.[97] As a Steward, I am satisfied William (independent of the Woman, and what her Excellence is I really know not) would be full his equal, and I think the Dinners if the Cook had more Agency in the planning of them, would be better; at least more tasty, but this Mr. or Mrs. Hyde's pride will not submit to. As I have got to the end of the Paper, and am tired, I shall only add that your letter of the 3d. with its enclosures came safe; and that Mrs. Washington joins me in best wishes for Mrs. Lear and yourself. I am etc.

PS. In a fortnight or 20 days from this time it is expected Mr. Morris will have removed out of the House. It is proposed to add Bow Windows to the two public rooms in the South front

[97] Samuel Fraunces.

of the House. But as all the other apartments will be close and secure the sooner after that time you can be in the House with the furniture, the better, that you may be well fixed and see how matters go on during my absence. [H.L.]

To ROBERT MORRIS

Baltimore, September 9, 1790.

Dear Sir: Major Jackson having communicated the result of his conversation with you to General Stewart,[98] the General was so obliging as to write the enclosed letter on the subject of giving you possession of his house, and I was induced by his determination to give Mr. Lear some directions relative to the removal of the furniture from New York. But that no unnecessary delay may be sustained in completing the repairs and alterations which it is proposed to make, I would beg leave to observe to you that they may be proceeded in without regarding the accomodation of the furniture, as, independent of the space which may be taken up in making the bow-window, there will be ample room for the reception of all our articles in other parts of the House. And I conceive this intimation the more necessary as Mrs. Morris mentioned something to me, when I had the pleasure of seeing her on Sunday, evening, about painting the House, which will require all the intervening time to complete it.

The additional building for a servants Hall, and the converting of the Cow-house into Stalls for horses, may be entered upon I hope without affecting your convenience, while you remain in the House, altho the alteration of the bow-window and the painting cannot.

[98] Walter Stewart(?).

Should the delay of your removal or other circumstances be no longer than we have supposed, I beg you to inform Mr. Lear thereof that he may govern himself accordingly. I am etc.[99]

To CHARLES CARTER

Mount Vernon, September 14, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 2. instant met me on the road to this place.

I beg you to be assured of my sensibility and gratitude for your friendly wishes respecting my health, which, since I overcame the severe attack in May last, has been better than I had enjoyed for twelve months preceding, for within that time I experienced more, and severer indispositions than I had felt in 25 years before, all put together; owing, I presume, to the change from an active life to one more sedentary and thoughtful.

To be instrumental, in any degree to the accomplishment of the object, which is mentioned in your letter, would, I do assure you, give me pleasure; but with truth I can add that I know no person who has either money to lend, or who seems willing to part with it. The most conclusive proof of which I shall give you: I was much in want of a sum, to answer some call upon me, which I did not care to have unsatisfied, when I set out for New York the Spring before last; but was unable to obtain more than half of it, (though it was not much I required) and this at an advanced interest with other rigid conditions. After this I took an occasion to sound Mr. Carroll of Carrollton, as the most likely, being the most monied man, I was acquainted with, but without success. He assured me that he could not collect the *interest* of the money that had been loaned, by his father and himself, and his other resources were not *more* than

[99] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

adequate to his own occasions; thenceforward I made no further attempts, not knowing indeed where to apply.

At all times I shall be glad to see you; and, with Mrs. Washington's compliments to Mrs. Carter, yourself, and family, in which I most cordially join, I am etc.[1]

To DAVID & FRANCIS CLARK

Mount Vernon, September 17, 1790.

Sir: From the best judgment I can form of the repairs and alterations to be made in my old *Coach* (under the statement and opinions given in your letter of the 13th. instant)[2] I feel most inclined to give you the following directions for your procedure that no delay or disappointment may happen.

The colour is to be as at present; but to be neatly painted and highly varnished.

The Seasons (which are now on the carriage) is to be continued on the doors, front and back, and my crest without any cypher is to be on the four quarter pannels; all to be enclosed with the original ovals. If it is thought best that the crests should be painted (as Silver does not show on a light ground) they may be painted. But quere, whether if some ornamental painting within the Oval, and around the Silver crests, (the colours of which should form a contrast to the silver and not be inconsistent with other parts of the work) might not look well. This is only suggested. For you may have painted, or silver crests put on according to your own judgment of the propriety and uniformity.

The Seasons (if they should require it and a masterly hand can be employed) must be repaired, or at least freshened in

[1] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[2] In the *Washington Papers*, accompanied by a pencil drawing of a suggested design for the crest and cipher, within an oval.

their appearance to make them correspond with the fresh painting of the Coach, and as festoons were on the coach before ought they not to be there again if the seasons &c. are retained. I approve of the pattern sent as lining for the Coach and desire you may use it. Plated handles to the doors, plated brace buckles, and plated mouldings around the roof should be added to make one part correspond with the other. A Glass in front must unquestionably be provided. In all other respects you are to observe the directions which was given when I saw you in Philadelphia. I am etc.[3]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, September 17, 1790.

Dear Sir: Having received no letter from you since the one dated the 3d. instant, I have nothing to reply to. The motive for writing to you at this time, is, that upon unpacking the china ornaments which accompanied the Mirrors for the Tables; it was found (notwithstanding they were in Bran) that many of the delicate and tender parts were broken; occasioned I believe by the Bran not being put in and settled down by little at a time. To press the Bran around the images (you have to remove with the Plateaux) will not answer; still, it must be so compact as to prevent friction, in moving; and this can only be done by putting each image or figure in a seperate box, with Bran by little and little, shaking and settling it by degrees, as it is added.

By a letter which Major Jackson has received from General Steward, he had compleated his removal, and Mr. Morris had begun to take the things out of the House I am to have to make room for my furniture; but as Mr. Morris was desired, so I am persuaded he will, inform you when it will be safe, and proper

[3] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

for you to remove. The sooner I think it can be done, the better; as you will be able to make such arrangements, and provide such conveniences as you will know we shall want; and which (I suppose) through the channel they are now making, may be accomplished.

We have resolved to take one of my Cooks with us, and if upon examining into the matter, it shall be found convenient, I may also take on a boy: at any rate there will be no occasion for Mrs. Lewis[4] or her daughter; for a Scullion may always be had in Philadelphia.

In one of my former letters I suggested to you the Propriety of knowing, decidedly, what Mr. Hydes views are before he is removed from New York at my expence; and I now repeat it: first, because it is necessary for me to be placed upon a certainty; and secondly, because if he has any difficulties, or doubts, or has it in contemplation to *talk* in a short time (which is but too common a case) of increased wages, it would be best to seperate at once; as well for these reasons as the one I communicated in a former letter, and because I fear *his* Table is a much more expensive one than it ought to be. But as this is conjecture only, I will not charge him with it, tho' I think the short duration of the first Pipe of Pintards Wine, is a pretty evident proof that that article was expended more expeditiously than it ever was in Francis's time. How it has been with other things, if you have been able to compare the Accounts of the one with the other, you must be the best judge.

We arrived safe at this place Saturday last,[5] but not without one upset of the Chariot, and Waggon, fortunately nothing was hurt. We all unite in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lear. and I am etc.

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[4] Rachel Lewis.
[5] Sept. 11, 1790.

Take measures either by yourself or through Colo. Biddle to engage Wood in Season and whilst it is to be obtained on good terms.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 18, 1790.

Sir: Your letter dated the 3d. inst: enclosing to Mr. Short,[6] came to my hands by the mail of Wednesday.

The appointment of that gentleman to negotiate the Loans in Holland, and the Instructions you have given for his government, meet my approbation.[7] The first as no inconvenience it is conceived will result from his absence from Paris, is a measure of economy; the latter, are full and cautionary; and under his Agency will, it is to be hoped, be satisfactorily executed. I am etc.[8]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1790.

Sir: In answer to your letter of the 10th. instt. relative to the establishment of the boats or Cutters for the protection of the revenue, I have to observe, that, if there appears to exist a necessity for equipping the whole number therein mentioned, the arrangement for building and stationing them, seems judicious, and is to me perfectly satisfactory.

It is my wish that your Enquiries, respecting proper characters to command these Vessels, may be extended to the States south of Virginia. Mr. Lear can furnish you with the List of Applications already made. Two persons, with nearly equal

[6] William Short.

[7] The instructions to Short from Secretary Hamilton are dated Sept. 1, 1790, and are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[8] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

recommendations, have offered themselves from Philadelphia, Captains Montgomery and Roach.[9] There are several respectable names subscribed in favor of each of these persons; some of them, I believe, in favor of both: such is the facility, with which, on certain occasions, recommendations are granted. It would seem, however, that they are both qualified; but, in favor of the former, it is stated that he now fills a subordinate station in the revenue, which he accepted with a view of being brought into notice when such an appointment, as that which he now solicits, should be made.

Captain Barney[10] was not at Baltimore when I passed through, nor cou'd I learn with certainty whether he wished to receive the appointment or not.[11] But I was informed that he had written in answer to an intimation made to him, by you or one of his friends, on the subject, whence I suppose his wish may be collected.

There is a Mr. Richard Taylor of this State, an applicant for one of the appointments, who from my knowledge of him, appears to be a proper person both as to character, and experience in the profession.

Remarking to you that the advantage, which might accrue from their superintendance, seems to suggest the propriety of nominating the Commanders before the Vessels are put on the stocks; you have my permission to carry the arrangement for building the Boats or Cutters, stated in your letter into immediate effect, in such extent as to your judgment shall seem necessary for the public service. I am &c.[12]

[9] James Montgomery and Isaac Roach. Their applications are in the *Applications for Office under Washington* in the Library of Congress.

[10] Capt. Joshua Barney.

[11] Barney had written (August 25) to Tench Coxe that he could not accept an appointment to command one of the revenue cutters as the pay was too small. Barney's letter is in the *Applications for Office under Washington* in the Library of Congress.

[12] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1790.

Dear Sir: The Servant who carried my letter of the 17th. to the Post Office in Alexandria returned with yours of the 12th. which shall be the subject for this reply.

Whatever Ideas, or remarks may have been excited by my going into Mr. Morris's House I know not; but this I am sure of, that to do it was farthest from my expectations.[13] The Corperation of the City (by whom it was engaged) made attempts, it seems, to get other places, but none being to be obtained to their liking Mr. Morris's was offered and accepted, subject to my decision. To the Academy there were exceptions, which it was said could not be overcome. To Hunters Houses there were impediments. The Houses of Mrs. Allan and Mr. Guirney could not be had because Mrs. Pollock (tenant in the latter) would not relinguish it. And Mr. or Mrs. Kepleys was found not to answer. This, I was told, was the history of the business.

I have not the least objection to Fidus's Wife's going to Philadelphia in the Vessel with the other Servants; nor to her continuing in the family afterwards if she chuses it and can do the duties of her station *tolerably;* because I think *he* merits indulgences. On James Account (who I also think is a very good Servant) I consent readily, if it was his expectation and wish, that his wife may accompany the Servants in the manner suggested by you, or as a House Maid if she is thought fit for it; but not being acquainted with the views of the parties (James and

[13] Lear had written (September 12): "The people here [New York] appear pleased with the prospect of your being so well accommodated; and the circumstance of its being in Mr. Morris' house does not seem to be noticed *here* in the manner which there was reason to think might, from the idea that was formed of Mr. Morris' agency in the removal of the Government." Lear's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

wife I mean) I can only say that I shall be perfectly satisfied with whatever you do respecting the matter. As I do not believe the House can be better Supplied with Washer women; I think it best to bring those you have; on condition that I shall not be burthened with Fanny's[14] Children after they arrive. Thus much for the lower Servants and their connections.

With respect to Mr. Hyde and his wife, if the duties of the family are too much for *both* will Mr. Hyde *alone* be able to discharge them? If she quits, will not a substitute be necessary? In that case, or in case Mr. Hyde *acts alone,* does he expect the same wages as are now given to both? If it is not stated in some paper handed in by Mr. Hyde, it is nevertheless strong in my recollection, that his wife's services were stated at one, and his own at 200 dollars per ann. I have no wish to part with Mr. or *Mrs.* Hyde; first, because I do not like to be changing; and secondly, because I do not know where, or with whom to supply their places. On the score of Accts. I can say nothing, never having taken a comparative view of his and Frauncis's; but I am exceedingly mistaken if the expenses of the second Table at wch. Mr. Hyde presides, has not *greatly* exceeded that kept by Frauncis; for (but in this I *may* be mistaken) I strongly suspect that *nothing* is brought to my Table of *liquors, fruits,* or *other things,* that is not used as *profusely* at his. If my suspicions are unfounded, I shall be sorry for having entertained them; and if they are not, it is at least questionable whether his successor might not do the same thing; in which case (if Hyde is honest and careful, of which you are better able to judge than I am) a change without a benefit might take place, and is not desireable, if they are to be retained on proper terms. I say *they,* for if Mrs. Hyde is necessary for the purposes enumerated in

[14] The washer woman.

your letter, and the Cook is not competent to the Desert, making Cake, &ca. I do not see what use Hyde, more than William, would be without her; nor do I see why *she* should execute part of *his duties* and thereby make her own too burthensome. Francis,[15] besides being an excellent Cook, knowing how to provide genteel Dinners, and giving aid in dressing them, prepared the Desert, made the Cake, and did every thing that Hyde and wife conjointly do; consequently the Services of Hyde alone is not to be compared with those of Frauncis's; and if his Accts., exceed (in the same Seasons) those of Frauncis's 4 or £5, a Week, and at the sametime appear fair, I shall have no scruple to acknowledge that I have entertained much harder thoughts of the latter than I ought to have done, although it is inconceivable to me how other families on 25 hd., or 3000 dollars, should be enabled to entertain more Company at least more frequently than I could do for twenty five thousand dollars, annually.

I am glad to hear that the furniture of the large drawing room, especially the glasses, are packed in a manner which you think secure, with respect to the Table Ornaments, my opinion has been so fully given on the mode of putting them up, that I shall say nothing farther on the Subject in this letter; and as I presume a corrispondence has been opened between Mr. Morris and you, I have no doubt of your embracing the proper moment for their removal; and the best mode of accomplishing it.

Mr. Macomb[16] may in reality be indifferent as to taking the House off your hands,[17] but it is highly probable he will assume the appearance of it, in order to derive an advantage in the term; therefore, as I shall have to pay rent for it until May, if

[15] Fraunces.

[16] Alexander Macomb.

[17] The house was what is now 39–41 Broadway, below Trinity Church, New York City.

he or some other does not take it, it would be well to bring him to some decision *at once,* or Advertise the renting of it, and the Sale of the buildings I have put up at the sametime. You will make better terms for these than any Agent that will be left behind, and besides, it may hasten Mr. Macomb (who, from what I have heard I am sure wants the house) by alarming his fears that others may step in. To receive some compensation, would be better than to sink the *whole* rent, and to loose the buildings which I have erected on the lots. If there is no likelihood of *my* getting a tenant for the House *you* are in would not Mr. Macomb be glad to take it at the difference which disinterested and impartial men would fix between *it* and the House *he is in,* and for me to pay the Rent of the latter until a tenant for it could be obtained? This would be a step gained, and is perhaps what he is driving at.

With respect to Dingwell,[18] I join Colo. Hamilton and Mr. Jefferson in opinion that it is no more than a catch-penny plan; Yet, for the reason assigned by Genl. Knox, I think twenty or twenty[19] dollars may be given him; professedly for his trouble; with an assurance that it is believed B——[20] has meant an imposition on *him,* in as much as part of his information *we know* is unfounded,[21] and are sure, from the complexion and expression of some of the letters, pretended to be received from some of the King of G. B.s Ministers that they are Spurious; yet nevertheless, as it is supposed *he, Dingwell,* meant well, and has been at some trouble in his report, this sum is given expressly on those Accts.

[18] John A. Dingwell.
[19] Five, probably omitted.
[20] John Brown.
[21] He was suspected of negotiating with the Spaniards to separate Kentucky from the United States.

We have all us been very well since we came to this place and all join in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lear.

With sincere regard and Affection I am etc. [H.L.]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1790.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 8th. instant[22] together with its enclosures.

A similar outrage to that stated in Governor Telfair's proclamation was some time since committed on two Indians of the Seneca tribe; the representation of which being before the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania when I arrived in Philada. the papers thereon were laid before me.

Finding an interference on the part of the general government essential to prevent a threatened hostility, I appointed Colonel Pickering on the part of the U. S. to meet the Chiefs and Warriors of the Seneca nation for the purpose of assuring them that the outrage complained of was not only unauthorized on the part of the government, but a flagrant violation of its laws, for which the Offenders, when taken, (and a reward was offered for apprehending them) would be brought to condign punishment; and likewise to offer a compensation to the relations of the deceased.

I have reason to hope that the measures taken to prevent farther mischief, and to satisfy the Seneca tribe will prove success-

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On September 22 Washington wrote briefly to Attorney General Randolph, that "Colonel Biddle misunderstood my intention in referring the letter, addressed to me by Shubael Swain, to your consideration as it was merely to ascertain, on an enquiry into his case, whether there was any thing so favorable as to justify an interference in his behalf by the Secretary of the Treasury, to whom such favorable circumstances might be made known." This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[22] In the *Washington Papers*.

ful. Your opinion on the relative rank of the regular and militia Officers, as communicated to Governor Telfair, accords with the usage of the army, and meets my approbation. I am &c.[23]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 27, 1790.

Sir: Mr. John Cogdell having resigned his appointment as Collector of the port of George town in south Carolina, I have to request that you will make enquiry respecting a proper person to succeed him.

Mr. Corbin Braxton having also resigned his appointment as Surveyor of the ports of Richmond and Manchester, Colonel Heth[24] informs me that he has nominated Mr. Z. Rowland[25] to do the duties of the office until another together with one from Colonel Griffin[26] on the same subject, are herewith transmitted.

I enclose to you, a letter from Mr. Thaddeus Burr to Colonel Humphreys, recommendatory of Capt. John Maltbee to the command of a revenue Cutter, and a recommendation of Capt. Montgomery by some Citizens of Philadelphia, to a similar station. These papers are not intended to influence your opinion in favor of these persons farther than as they may serve to form a comparison of their merits with other candidates. I am etc.[27]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, September 27, 1790.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you (the date I do not recollect, keeping no copies of my letters to you) I have received yours of

[23] The draft is in the writing of William Jackson.
[24] William Heth.
[25] Zachariah Rowland.
[26] Samuel Griffin.
[27] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

the 17th. and 20th. instant, and shall answer such parts of them as require it.

I am glad to find that the House, according to Mr. Morris's notification to you, will be ready about the time you had made arrangements for the removal of my furniture, the mode of doing which, is, I am persuaded, the cheapest and best. How have you disposed (for safety) of the Pagoda? It is a delicate piece of stuff, and will require to be tenderly handled.

I expected that Mr. Macomb, if he found no other person was disposed to take the House of my hands, would endeavour to impose his own terms: and allowing me only £100 for Seven Months use of it, when the rent (independent of the houses I put on the lots) is £400, is a pretty strong evidence of it. and if you do not take some measures to see what can be had for the Wash house and Stable he will impose his own terms there also. But after all, we are in his power and he must do as he pleases with us.

As the Lustre is paid for and securely packed up, and may suit the largest drawing room at Mr. Morris's, I do not incline to part with it. The Franklin Stoves and other fixtures if they cannot be disposed of without loss must be brot. round with the other furniture, we may find use for them. Such things as are freighted in the common way (if the Vessel you desired Colo. Biddle to procure is unable to carry the whole) had better be of the kinds which require least care. The Sale of the old Chariot was proper;[28] for although the price is small it will be so much saved for the public. If much worn, or lumbering articles, could be disposed of to any tolerable account, might it not be better to sell them at New York and buy (if necessary) New ones at Philadelphia than to pay frieght for them round?

[28] Lear obtained £45 for the chariot.

Mrs. Morris has a Mangle (I think they are called) for Ironing of Clothes, which, as it is fixed in the place where it is commonly used she proposed to leave, and take mine. To this I have no objection, provided mine is *equally* good and convenient; but if I should obtain any advantage besides that of its being up, and ready for us I am not inclined to receive it.

Mrs. Washington and all of this family unite in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lear and I am etc. [H.L.]

To JAMES INNES

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your letter dated the 17 of August did not come to my hands until Sunday, last, or it should have received an earlier acknowledgement. For an answer to it I beg leave to refer you to Colonel Warner Lewis (of Gloucester) who, having taken much trouble to ascertain the properties and value of the land, (you wish to know the price of) and asking on what terms it would be disposed of, was sometime ago fully acquainted with my sentiments thereon. Not having the copy of my letter to him,[29] by me at this place to refer to for these terms, nor the circumstances much in recollection, and being unwilling to propose others to you, which may differ from them, is the reason why I put you to the trouble of making this further enquiry. I am etc.[30]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1790.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you, your letter dated the 15th. Ulto. containing your sentiments on the questions I had propounded

[29] See Washington's letter to Warner Lewis, Mar. 5, 1790, *ante*.
[30] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

for your opinion and advice is come duly to hand.[31] I feel myself much obliged by the full and able consideration you have bestowed on the subject.[32] From present appearances, however, it does not seem as if there would be occasion for any decision on either point which gave birth to my questions. I am etc.[33]

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1790.

Sir: I learn with pleasure, by your letter of the 26th. Ultimo, that the person supposed to have been the principal in the murder of the two Indians on pine-creek has been lodged in Lancaster goal, and that it is very probable all the offenders will soon be apprehended.

I cannot avoid expressing my wish that the proceedings, in bringing these persons to justice may be such as will vindicate the laws of our Country, and establish a conviction, in the minds of the Indians, of our love of justice and good faith. I am etc.[33]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 22d. Ulto. came safe. I wish the information given by Mr. Danl. Parker to Doctr. Craigee may prove true.[34] No mention of such event is in Morris's letter to me; but the date is prior to that of Mr. Parker's by Six days. The Declaration and Counter-declaration of the Ministers of Britain and Spain are published with the communication thereof

[31] Hamilton's reply to the Queries to the Heads of the Departments, Aug. 27, 1790, *ante*, q. v., is an A. D. S., 25 pages 4° in length, and is in the *Washington Papers*. (See note 78 to the Queries to the Heads of the Departments, Aug. 27, 1790, *ante*.)

[32] A brief note of thanks for information forwarded is also dated October 3 and addressed to Hamilton by Washington. It is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[33] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[34] That Spain had ceded the navigation of the Mississippi to the United States.

to the Lord Mayor of London; and yet, it seems to me the opinion of *some* of the paragraphists, that the matter remains unsettled. Further information (not contained in the Newspapers) of these, or any other interesting matters, you would do well to give me the earliest intelligence of. Mr. Jefferson being from New York will, more than probable; delay official advices through the Office of Foreign Affairs longer than it otherwise would be, in coming to me.

I request after you get to Philadelphia, and previous to our arrival there, that you wd. use your best endeavors to ascertain the characters, or reputation of such Schools as it may be proper to place Washington[35] at, as soon as we shall be fixed in our New habitation; particularly if there be any fit School in the College for him, under good and able Tutors, and well attended. His trip to Mount Vernon will be of no Service to him, but will render restraint more necessary than ever. If the College is under *good* regulations, and have proper Tutors there for boys of his standing to prepare them for the higher branches of education quere whether it would not be better to place him in it at once? the presumption being, that a system prevails, by which the gradations are better connected than they are in Schools which have no corrispondence with each other. Mr. S——[36] is a man of acknowledged abilities, but it may not be well perhaps to say more in a letter, especially as his re-instatement may have given rise to a reform of that conduct wch. did not escape censure formerly.

The enclosed letters having been put under cover to me, will of course occasion delay in the receipt of them by you, and Fidas. In all yr. communications respecting the Servants, no mention has been made of John's wife. What do you understand to be her plan? Enclosed is a letter from him to her, or

[35] George Washington Parke Custis.
[36] Rev. William Smith.

some friend, I suppose of hers, and another from James to his del Toboso.

If I have not already advised you of it, it is necessary now to do so, that Mrs. Stuart has paid for the tickets you purchased for her and Mrs. Alexander, that was.

When you can get at the last letter, or letters of the Count de Estaing to me, I wish you would send me a transcript of what he says, or whether anything, of a Bust he has sent me of Mr. Necker, together with a number of prints of that Gentleman and the Marquis de la Fayette which are come to my hands in a package from Baltimore. We all join in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lear and I am etc. [H.L.]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, October 6, 1790.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 29th. Ulto. The papers concerning Capt. Lyde, put into your hands by the Vice President, which you say were enclosed to me, have not been transmitted, but from the recommendations in favor of Captain Williams, I think him entitled to a preference.

Not being possessed of any commissions, I have to request (unless your farther enquiry should point to more proper characters) that you will signify to the undermentioned persons my intention to appoint them to command the revenue Cutters on the stations opposite their respective names, and that you will furnish them with the necessary instructions for proceeding to superintend the building and equipment of their several Vessels.

Hopley Yeaton	New Hampshire
John Foster Williams	Massachusetts
Richard Law	Connecticut
Patrick Dennis	New York

James Montgomery	Pennsylvania
Simon Gross	Maryland
Richard Taylor	Virginia
William Hall	South Carolina

I am etc.[37]

To RICHARD TAYLOR

Mount Vernon, October 8, 1790.

Sir: The President of the United States directs me to inform you, that, induced by the fair representation which has been made to him of your character, he intends to appoint you to the command of one of the Cutters directed by the Act of Congress of the 4th. of August last, to be stationed in the bay of Chesapeak for the protection of the revenue.[38]

The annexed extract from the law shews the emoluments of the appointment.

As there are many applications, you will be pleased to signify whether it meets your acceptance, and instructions will be transmitted to you by the Secretary of the Treasury for your superintending the building and equipment of the vessel. I am etc.[39]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 10,[40] 1790.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 30th ulto came duly to hand with its enclosures. For the information contained in it I thank

[37] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[38] Taylor at first declined this appointment. The other appointees seem to have been notified by the Secretary of the Treasury.

[39] This letter is signed "W. Jackson" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[40] Recorded in the "Letter Book" as October 30. Hamilton's reply to this letter is dated October 17.

you,[41] as I shall do for all others of a similar nature. The motives, however, by which the author of the communication to you was actuated, although they may have been pure and in that case praiseworthy, do also (but it may be uncharitable to harbour the suspicion) admit of a different interpretation and by an easy and pretty direct clew.

We are approaching the first Monday in December by hasty strides; I pray you therefore to revolve in your mind such matters (if there be any) as may be proper for me to lay before Congress not only in your own department, but such others of a general nature, as may happen to occur to you, that I may be prepared to open the session with such communications, as shall appear to merit attention. With sincere regard, I am, &c.[42]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, October 10, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 26th. and 30th of the last, and 3d. of the present Month, have come duly to hand.

Without entering into the details, I can assure you that I am perfectly satisfied with the steps you have taken respecting the Vessel which is to bring the furniture and Servants to Philadelphia; With your agreement with Mr. Macomb, and whatever you shall do with the Houses I was compelled to build, on his Lots; With your conduct towards, and agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Hyde. And with your taking the Carpeting from Barry and Rogers, although it arrived much after the time it ought, by agreement, to have been delivered. As Mr. Macomb will, more than probable, get the Houses for little or nothing, you

[41] Information (probably from Major Beckwith) that Gouverneur Morris was on terms of great intimacy with La Luzerne in London and also with the party in opposition to the Ministry in England. This might be the reason, it was conjectured, why Morris was encountering coolness and being delayed in his negotiations. Hamilton's letter of September 30 is in the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[42] From a copy "(Compared with the original—Octavius Pickering)" in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

acted very properly I think in taking down the Closets, partitions and fixtures which I purchased of the French Minister and which would have been equally convenient to him rather than encrease his gain at my loss. If the Vessel will bring them, they can, unquestionably, be made useful in our intended habitation; if not they will probably fetch something.

The easy and quiet temper of Fanny is little fitted I find for the care of my Niece Harriot Washington, who is grown almost, is not quite a Woman; and what to do with her at the advanced *Size* she is arrived at, I am really at a loss. Her age (just turned of 14) is not too great for a Boarding School, but to enter *now* with any tolerable prospect, the Mistress of it must not only be respectable, but one who establishes and will enforce good rules. She is prone to idleness, and having been under no controul, would create all the difficulty. I have formed no resolution respecting what will be proper for me to do with her; but that I may the better judge, I request that you will enquire whether there be a *proper* School (for her to *board* at) in Philadelphia. If so, whether there are at it, genteel girls of her size and age. Who the Mistress of it is, what her character; Terms &ca. are; The numbers at it, who of the principal families and how they are entertained and accomodated. I have not intimated any thing of this matter to Harriot yet; who, if it should be, would I dare say be a good deal alarmed as she had, I dare say, rather mix with other company than be in a Boarding School. Among other things, enquire what is taught at these Schools. I must further desire, that, in pursuing your enquiries after a School for Washington, particularly if one is to be found in the College at Philadelphia fit for him; that you would extend them to the reputation of the higher branches in that Seminary; and whether much good could be expected from my fixing my Nephews George and Lawrence in it. From what I can find they are doing but little in Alexandria, having left the

study of the Languages, and indeed Mr. McWhir, and are learning French and the Mathematics under a Mr. Harrow. George, and indeed Lawrence, I am told are well disposed Youths, neither of them wanting capacity; and both, especially the first, very desirous of improvement. I would wish to know what their Studies and board would stand them annually. In a word, the best estimate (exclusive of Cloaths) the expence of fixing them at that place.

As I have had no account yet of what has been done, or is doing to our new habitation, or what ideas to annex to Mr. Morris's information to you, that the House would not be ready for your reception before the 10th. of the present Month, I should be glad to receive a full statement of these matters as soon as you arrive at Philadelphia and have time to look into things.

We all join in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lear, and for your and the safe arrival of every thing in Philadelphia.

With sincere regard and Affecte. I am etc. [H.L.]

To WILLIAM TEMPLE FRANKLIN

Mount Vernon, October 25, 1790.

Sir: I did not receive your letter of the 13th instt.[43] until yesterday on my return from an excursion up the Potowmack,[44] which will apoligize for the delay of my answer.

On October 10 George Augustine Washington, on behalf of the President of the United States, petitioned the Virginia Legislature for permission to close the ferry which had been operated since the year 1753 from the land of John Posey, now the property of George Washington (known as the Ferry Farm), to the land of Thomas Marshall, in Maryland. The petition was accompanied by a map, with "Remarks" thereon made by George Washington. Photostats of these originals, in the Virginia State Library, are in the *Washington Papers*.

[43] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[44] On October 20 Washington, on this journey of inspection up the Potomac River, received and answered an address of welcome from the inhabitants of Elizabethtown (now Hagerstown), Md., and its vicinity. Both the address and answer are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

I am much obliged by your offer to take charge of my letters for Europe, but, having no communication to make at this time, I shall not be able to profit of your politeness.

The reason, which you say has been suggested for your leaving America, I have not heard mentioned, nor should I have placed such a construction upon your absence, being altogether ignorant of any cause to authorize the opinion.

I wish you an agreeable passage to England, and a successful issue to your intentions in visiting Europe. I am etc.[45]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, October 26, 1790.

Sir: Your letter of the 8th inst. I received yesterday on my return from an excursion up the Potowmack.

I acquainted you on the 15th. instant[46] that I had appointed Mr. Woodbury Langdon Commissioner of Loans for the State of New Hampshire; but as it is probable from his brothers letter to you, that he will decline the appointment, I have now to inform you that I have no objection to Mr. Keith Spence the person recommended by Mr. John Langdon provided that, on enquiry, you find him to be the person best qualified to discharge the duties of the Office.

Mr. Lear's knowledge of characters in the State of New Hampshire will assist your information on this subject. I am etc.[45]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, October 27, 1790.

Dear Sir: On Sunday last I returned from a twelve days excursion up the Potowmack and found your letters of the 6th.

[45] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[46] This brief note is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

and 10th. from New York, and 14th. and 17th. from Philadelphia. I am very glad to hear that you are all arrived at the latter place, safe, and the furniture, as you conceive, in good order. It was very right to give Johns wife the same priviledge that was allowed to others, and Mr. and Mrs. Hyde's coming in the Stage is equally agreeable to me.

I have no particular directions to give respecting the appropriation of the furniture. By means of the Bow windows the back rooms will become the largest, and of course will receive the furniture of the largest dining and drawing rooms, and in that case, although there is no closet within the former, there are some in the Stewards room directly opposite which are not inconvenient; or (but here I am speaking some what at random, not knowing to what use it has hitherto been applied) there is a small room adjoining the Kitchen (by the Pump) that might if it is not essential for other purposes be appropriated for the Images, Save China, and other things of this sort which are not in common use. Mrs. Morris who is a notable lady in family arrangements, can give you much information in all the conveniences about the House and buildings; and I dare say would rather consider it as a compliment to be consulted in these matters (as she is so near) than a trouble to give her opinion of them or in putting up any of the fixtures as the House is theirs and will revert to them with the advantages or disadvantages which will result from the present establishment of things. I am very glad you pressed them not to incommode themselves by an inconvenient remove. We are very happy to hear of her recovery, and request you to present our compliments of congratulations to her and Mr. Morris on the occasion.

I am very anxious to have the Rent which I am to pay for my new residence ascertained before I take up my quarters in it,

you will perceive by the enclosed answer to a letter I wrote to Mr. Morris on the subject that this point is yet unsettled. Previous to my application to Mr. Morris, I was informed by the Committee with whom I had conversed on the Subject that it was well understood I was to pay rent. I have therefore to request that you will get the matter fixed in some way or other with them. A just value I am willing to pay; more I have no idea will be asked but my fears rather are that they want to make it the expence of some public body (which I shall not consent to) and that they do not care to avow it.

If the Servants can be conveniently accomodated without using the Stable loft it will certainly be much the best and safest; for I am certain no orders given to my people wd. restrain them from carrying lights if they were to be in it as lodgers.

I send you a letter with the Bill of loading for Wines Shipped by Fenwick Mason &ca. which, if arrived you will give the necessary orders about. By return of the person who carries this and other letters to the Post Office in Alexandria I expect to receive accounts of later date than the 17th. from you; and, possibly, something more indicative of Peace, or War between Spain and England which has hung long in suspence. Our best wishes attend you and Mrs. Lear and I am etc. [H.L.]

To JAMES DUNLOP[47]

Mount Vernon, October 29, 1790.

Sir: Sometime before I left Virginia in 1789 I was informed by Mr. Montgomerie that you would pay to me, as surviving Executor of the will of Colonel Thomas Colvill, the money which was due to that estate from the Assignees of Mr. Semple, when

[47] A merchant of Georgetown, Md.

you should receive it from the purchases of the Maryland tract of land.

There is now a demand on me from one of the Legatees of Colo. Colvill to the amount of about £220 Sterling, including interest which is accumulating.

The original sum ought to have been paid years ago, and I am exceedingly anxious to do it without further delay, but am unable unless it is by the aid above mentioned. Be pleased therefore, Sir, to inform me if you can supply me with the above sum now, or when? that I may before I leave home be enabled either to comply with the demand, or to say when it may be expected, as the call has been painfully, to me, reiterated. I am etc.[48]

To GABRIEL P. VAN HORNE

Mount Vernon, October 29, 1790.

Sir: The President of the United States proposing to leave Mount Vernon, on his return to Philadelphia, about the 22d. of November, desires to know whether you can furnish him on that day with a close coach, (sufficiently large and commodious to receive that part of his family which came home in a similar carriage) together with four good horses and a careful driver. If you can supply such an accommodation, he requests that you will immediately acquaint him with particulars respecting the carriage, and the terms upon which the whole is to be hired, Stating whether the Driver and Horses are to be supplied with provision at his cost or yours. As your information will be compared with other resources he wishes to receive it as soon as possible. I am etc.[49]

[48] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[49] This letter is signed "W. Jackson" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, October 31, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 24th since the date of my last to you; and am very glad to hear that the most valuable parts of the furniture have borne their transportation without receiving damage, and that your expectation of equal success with respect to the remainder, is sanguine. I am pained, however, to find there is a doubt that the House will not be completely finished and ready for our reception towards the latter end of next month. At all times this would be attended with inconvenience, but at *that* Season, and while Congress *are in Session,* it would be exceedingly so. As the Pagoda can be put up in half an hour, at any time, it may (if not already disposed of) remain unfixed until we arrive; and, that I may be in Philadelphia in time, it is my present intention to leave this place on Monday the 22d. of next Month. I could not *clearly* understand Colo. Van Horne when I applied to him (as I came through Baltimore) for a *proper and convenient* Stage Coach for part of the family to return in. He said he *could* provide, and *would* provide, and so on, but altho' he wanted to convey the idea of a certain reliance on him, it did not appear clear to me that I could rely on him for more than the *Common* Stage Coach or Waggon; this being the case, and the driver who brought us hither being desirous of coming for us again adding, that he could always get a freight to Alexandria, induces me to request that you would, as his was a large and roomy *close* Coach, his Horses good, and himself a careful driver make enquiry (without entering into any engagement with the Proprietor) whether the *same* Coach, Horses and Man could be had; and whether he wd. positively engage to be here on the 20th. or 21st. of Novr if after hearing from you, I should request

it. The terms on which he would come must be explicitly defined, that I may, without delay, return a precise answer. You will readily perceive, that I do not mean to place my sole dependence upon this Stage. No: I shall by this Conveyance, *also* write to Colo. Vanhorne to know what *absolute* dependence may be placed on him. Thus by having two strings to my bow I may chuse the one which promises best. You will readily perceive also, that there is no time to spare in my hearing from *you; you* from *me,* and for the Coach to be here in time. Colo. Biddle can point you to the man, who ought to know that his terms should be moderate, because Colo. Vanhorne's (as Horses will go from Stage to Stage only) must be lower than the last trip cost me.

I should conceive that, a wreath round the Crests that will be on the pannels of the Coach, would be more correspondent with the Seasons wch. will remain thereon, than the Motto. And that the Motto on Such of the Plates as require it upon the Harness wd. be best but as this is mere matter of opinion, unaccompanied with a view of the work, I am so far from being tenacious of it that I shall leave it to you and him (Clarke) to adopt which of the two shall appear best, when the whole is taken into one view. What appearance does the Coach assume at present? and how will it look when finished?

Is Mrs. Brodeau's terms such as do actually exist, or, does she mean to avail herself of the occasion to commence a new œra in them? They (especially the Board) appear to be high. Pray, without giving any expectation of Harriet to either, for I have decided nothing respecting her, know what are Mrs. Pines terms. Mrs. Brodeau was, I understand, once of Mrs. Morris's family, this may occasion a predilection in that quarter. Mrs. Pines standing in that way not being long, little may be said

of her on that account, but she may be equally capable, and possibly more respectable than the other.

Let me know what answer was given to or notice taken of the Extract which you have sent me from the letter of Count de Estaing when he was written to on the Subject. I fear I might not have been sufficiently polite and thankful for his present, as the thing itself has entirely escaped me, and the Box with the Prints scarcely brought any recollection of the circumstance to my mind.

I have heard nothing yet of Captn. Vance, but am glad you sent the Sugar. By mistake, a letter from James Tilghman Esqr. respecting a Legacy to Miss Anderson, from Colo. Colvill, was enclosed to you in my last, which I desire may be returned in your next after the receipt of this as I shall want to answr., even if I cannt. comply with it. As we shall have new Connections to form with different Tradesmen, find out those in each branch who stand highest for skill and fair dealing. 'Tis better to be slow in chusing, than to be under the necessity of changing, and that it may be done upon sure grounds, compare one acct. with another (for partialities, perhaps less laudable motives, mix very much in all these things) and see where the preponderancy is.

We all join in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lear and with affecte. regard I am etc. [H.L.]

To ELÉONOR FRANÇOIS ÉLIE, COMTE DE MOUSTIER

Mount Vernon, November 1, 1790.

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letters of the 11th of May and 12th of July last, together with the flattering mark

of your and Madame de Brehan's regard,[50] which accompanied the former, for which, and the obliging satisfaction you express on the restoration of my health, I beg you and her to accept my grateful acknowledgments.

A short relaxation from public business, and an indulgence in the pleasures of a country life, during the recess of Congress, have greatly contributed to improve my health, which is now, thank God, perfectly re-established. From the interest you take in the prosperity of the United States, you will learn with pleasure that their happiness continues to progress, and that there is great reason to conclude it will be lasting. The wisdom and integrity, manifested in the measures of Congress, have secured to them the confidence of their constitutents, and the respect of our domestic Neighbours; with the most considerable of whom, treaties, dictated by justice and National generosity, have been concluded, and will, in all probability, be faithfully maintained. The aggregate happiness of the society, which is best promoted by the practice of a virtuous policy, is, or ought to be, the end of all government; such, I am happy in telling you, appears to be the object of our legislative regulations; and such, I am confident in anticipating will be the result to that generous nation of which you are a citizen. Their character, in all its relations, entitles them to prosperity and honor; and the issue of their present endeavors will, I fervently hope, justify the expectation of public and individual happiness. I am &c.[51]

[50] Several engravings of Madame de Brehan's portrait of Washington. From William Jackson's translation of Moustier's letter of May 11, 1790, in the *Washington Papers,* is the following: "Mad. de Brehan will profit of the first certain opportunity which presents to address to Madam Washington the medallion intended for her; in the meantime, she will make a copy of the original for herself."

[51] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, November 2, 1790.

My dear Sir: I am a little surprised that we have not heard (so long after the time appointed for the rendezvous) of the issue, the progress, or the commencement of the Expedition against the Wabash Indians under the conduct of Brigr. Genl. Harmer. This in my opinion, is an Undertaking of a serious nature. I am not a little anxious to know the result of it, and therefore request, if any official or other accts. have been received by you relating thereto, that you would forward them to this place, provided they can reach it before Monday the 22d instant on which day I expect to leave home for Philada.

As this matter, favorable or otherwise in the issue, will require to be laid fully before Congress that the motives which induced the Expedition may appear; And as circumstances may not allow time for a complete statement of facts after my arrival, I request it may meet your earliest attention; that I may be prepared at the *opening* of the Session to make the Communication. With sincere regard and friendship I am &c.[52]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, November 4, 1790.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 28th. ultimo. The measures which you have taken to forward the building and equipment of the revenue Cutters, and to procure information

[52] From a facsimile in a sales catalogue, 1921.

respecting proper characters to be appointed inferior officers, meet my approbation.

You will please to inform Captain Law [53] of his appointment, and furnish him with instructions similar to those you have given to the other Commanders, I am etc.

P. S. Captain Taylor declines his appointment and I am not informed of a person qualified to receive it.[54]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, November 4, 1790.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 25th. ultimo with its enclosures.

I am apprehensive that Governor St. Clair's communication of the object of the expedition to the Officer commanding at Detroit has been unseasonable and may have unfavorable consequences, it was certainly premature to announce the operation intended until the troops were ready to move; since the Indians, through that channel, might receive such information as would frustrate the expedition. I am etc.[55]

To MERCY OTIS WARREN

Mount Vernon, November 4, 1790.

Madam: My engagements, since the receipt of your letter of the 12th of September, with which I was honored two days ago, have prevented an attentive perusal of the book that accompanied it, but from the reputation of its author, from the parts I have read, and a general idea of the pieces, I am persuaded of

[53] Richard (?) Law.
[54] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[55] The draft is in the writing of William Jackson.

its gracious and distinguished reception by the friends of virtue and science.

I desire to assure you of the gratitude with which your flattering expressions of regard impress me, and of the respectful consideration, with which I have the honor etc.[56]

To JAMES TILGHMAN

Mount Vernon, November 6, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 6. ultimo came safely, but not expeditiously to hand.

Since my return from the army in 1785, and finding myself under the necessity (being the surviving Executor) of closing the business of the estate of the deceased Colonel Colvill, I have never lost sight of the just claim of Miss Anderson upon that estate; but the suspension of our courts of justice in this State during the war, and being obliged to bring suits for the recovery of money due to that estate, since they were opened has put it out of my power till now to comply with her demand. And even now I ought to add that it depends on a Gentleman, who has had the collection of money for the purpose of discharging a debt due to the estate from the Assignees of Mr. John Semple. But as he has informed me that there will be no disappointment I venture to assure you payment of the legacy with interest up to the 9 of October, which will be 24 years, and, at 5 p. cent, the legal interest of this State will make the whole sum £176 Sterling.

It is far from my wish, Sir, to throw obstacles in the way of Miss Anderson receiving her legacy. But as Colonel Colvill

[56] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to Mercy Otis Warren, June 4, 1790, *ante*.)

(after directing his debts and legacies to be paid) did leave the residue of his estate to; the Lord knows who, by description, which has stirred up a number of vexations and impertinent claims, and, as the legacy to Miss Anderson is also by description, not by name, I am informed that it is necessary for my own security that there should be proof of her being the person meant. When this is done, and I hope there will be no difficulty in the way, I will pay the above sum in Georgetown, Potowmac, to her attorney properly authorized to receive the same provided the demand is made before the 22nd. instant. If not I will take the money with me to Philadelphia, and shall be ready to pay it there as above, I am etc.[57]

To WILLIAM CONSTABLE

Mount Vernon, November 7, 1790.

Sir: My thanks are due, and are rendered to you for the letters which you were so obliging as to forward to me and for your care of the articles sent to me by Mr. Gouverneur Morris. Add to the favor, if you please, Sir, by transmitting those things by the first good conveyance, to Mr. Lear at Philadelphia; who is directed to pay you the amount of the cost of them and the freight of the three Cases which contain them. I am etc.[57]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, November 7, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 28th. and 31st. Ult are now before me, and the parts of them wch. require it, shall be answered.

If the Schools in the College are under good Masters, and as fit for Boys of Washingtons standing as a private School, I am

[57] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

still of opinion (for the reasons mentioned in a former letter) that he had better be placed there in the first instance. The propriety, however, of this will depend, 1st. upon the character and ability of the Master under whose tuition he will be. 2d. Upon the police and discipline of the School, and 3dly. upon the number of Boys; for I lay it down as a maxim, that if the number of the pupils is too great for the tutors, justice cannot be done, be the abilities of the latter what they will. What the *due* proportion, beyond which it ought not to go, is in some measure matter of opinion, but an extreme must be obvious to all, and you will easily decide upon it in your own mind if nothing should be finally resolved upon by me, previous to my arrival.

Enclosed I send you a letter from Mr. Gouvr. Morris with the Bill of cost of the articles he was requested to send me. The prices of the plated ware exceeds, far exceeds the utmost bounds of my calculation; but as I am persuaded he has done what he conceived right, I am satisfied, and request you to make immediate payment to Mr. Constable if you can raise the means. The duties are also to be paid. You will see by the enclosed (left open for your perusal) that I have promised this. Ought not the Sum remitted by Colo. Humphreys to Mr. Morris, to be deducted? Make this, without creating any difficulty, the subject of arrangement with Mr. Constable.[58] As these Coolers are designed for warm weather, and will be, I presume, useless in cold, or in that which the liquors does not require Cooling; quere, would not a stand like that for Castors, with four appertures for as many different kinds of liquors, just sufficient (each apperture) to hold one of the Cut decanters sent by Mr. Morris, be more convenient for passing the Bottles from one to another, than handing each bottle seperately; by whh. it often happens

[58]A letter (November 1) from Lear to Constable carried out this direction. It is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

that *one* bottle moves, *another* stops, and *all* are in confusion? Two of these, one for each end of the Table, with a flat Bottom with, or without feet, (to prevent tilting, open at the sides, but with a raised Rim as Castors have, and an upright by way of handle in the middle, could not cost a great deal were they made wholly of Silver. Talk to a Silver Smith and know the cost, and whether they could be *immediately* made, if required in a handsome fashion. Perhaps the Coolers sent by Mr. Morris may afford ideas of taste, perhaps too (if they are not too heavy when examined) they may supersede the necessity of such as I have described, by answering the purpose themselves. Four dble. flint glasses (such I expect Mr. Morris has sent) will weigh, I conjecture, 4 lb.; the Wine in them when full, will be 8 lb. more; these *added* to the weight of the Coolers, will, I fear, make these latter too unwieldy to pass; especially by Ladies, which induced me to think of a frame in the form of Castors; wch. by being open at bottom wd. save Silver.

I approve, at least till inconvenience or danger shall appear, of the large table ornaments (images) remaining on the Sideboards; and of the Pagoda's standing in the smallest drawing Room as you may have fixed it. Had I delivered any sentiment from home respecting the fixture, that is the apartment I shd. have named for it. Whether the Green which you have, or a new yellow Curtain, shod. be appropriated to the Stair case above the Hall, may depend upon your getting an *exact* match in colour &ca. of the latter. For the sake of appearances one wd. not, in instances of this sort, regard a small additional expense.

If the Servants can be accomodated without the rooms which were intended for them at the end of the Hall, the use you propose to put them to is certainly a good one. But what is to become of Phidas and James's wives? Is it not their wishes to have

their wives (if they incline to act as House maids) with them? And will not the contrary be a foundation for the loss of their Husbands?

I hope my Study (that is to be) will be in readiness against I arrive. and if the Rubbish and other litter occasioned by the People of Mortar, and the Carpenters, is at a stand, I wish that every thing of the sort may be removed; and the yard made and kept as clean as the Parlour. This was always the case in Mrs. Morris's time, and has become *more* essential now, as the *best* rooms are *now* back, and an *uninterrupted* view from them into the yard and Kitchen, which is nearly upon a level with the Dining Room.

I am really sorry, on public as well as private accts., to hear of Mr. Hares loss.[59] You wd. do well to lay in a pretty good Stock of his, or some other Porter. As Mrs. Washington writes to Mrs. Lear I shall add my best wishes to her only and affectionate regards to you, being Yr. etc. [H.L.]

To JAMES DUNLOP

Mount Vernon, November 8, 1790.

Sir: Your letter of the 1st. instant in answer to mine of the 29 ultimo came duly to hand, and it is with pleasure I perceive that you can enable me to pay the demand which has been made upon me as Executor of the will of the deceased Colonel Thomas Colvill.

The legacy mentioned in my last is to Miss Anderson and is eighty instead of £100 sterling, as I had conceived. This sum with the legal interest of this State amounts to £176. And the Lady, through her friend (James Tilghman Esquire of Chestertown) is requested to give a power of attorney to receive it.

[59] Hare's brewery was destroyed by fire.

and to apply to you therefor provided the application can be made before the 22nd. instant, if not, I will, on that day, receive the money from you *myself* in Georgetown, or in *Philadelphia,* if you can make it convenient to pay it at that place on my arrival there.

As the above legacy was given in the words of the enclosed memorandum, it is necessary (as I have informed Mr. Tilghman) that proofs should accompany the power of attorney, purporting that the Lady applying is the person described by the Testator: If this is done to your satisfaction (and I do not wish to be scrupulously exact in obtaining the proof) the money may be paid as above, upon the passing of such a receipt as I have enclosed, to be endorsed on the power of Attorney, for which I will exchange my receipt to you in the manner you have requested.

Should the proof and the power be defective in your judgment, I would thank you for referring both to me before payment. I am etc.[60]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, November 8, 1790.

Sir: I have received your letters of the 26th Ult: and 1st. Inst. The objection stated by you to the appointment of Mr. Spence[61] being conclusive, I now enclose a letter from Mr. Wingate[62] to me recommendatory of another Candidate, with my answer occasioned by the previous appointment of Mr. Woodbury Langdon, but should that Gentleman finally determine not to accept, and you learn, on enquiry, that Colo. Rogers[63] is qualified to

[60] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*
[61] Keith Spence, of Portsmouth, N. H.
[62] Paine Wingate.
[63] Nathaniel Rogers.

discharge the duties of the office, I shall have no objection to appoint him.

The enclosed application from Captain Kelly,[64] for the command of one of the revenue Cutters, will receive your consideration, and be compared with the pretentions of other applicants.

In my letter of the 4th instant I informed you that Capt: Taylor had declined his appointment, he has since in consequence of your letter to him, waited upon me and agreed to accept. Observing that he should pursue your instructions for superintending the building and equipment of the Vessel, he expressed a doubt what kind of Vessel could be built for the sum limitted, which would answer the purposes of the service. Swiftness of sailing being especially required, he thought that the pilot-boat construction would be best on that account, though very inconvenient in point of accommodation; and he submitted the idea of taking such pilot boats as had, upon trial been found to excel in the requisite of sailing. I am etc.[65]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, November 11, 1790.

Sir: Since writing to you yesterday I have received your letter of the 6th inst: enclosing the copy of one from Mr. Skinner [66] to you, wherein he expresses his intention to continue in Office, which in conformity to your opinion, I am willing he should do. You will therefore destroy the letter, which I enclosed to you in my last, for Colo. Thomas.

The person recommended by Capt. Taylor to be his first Mate is represented to me as a deserving man, and qualified for that station. I am etc.[65]

[64] Capt. Thomas Kelly, of Newbern, N. C.
[65] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[66] William Skinner. He was Commissioner of Loans for North Carolina.

To TOBIAS LEAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, November 14, 1790.

Dear Sir: Having wrote two letters to you on the subject of Page's Stage Coach, one or the other of which, if not both, it is presumable will certainly have got to hand before this can, I shall add nothing more thereto than that Page's Coach is *now* my dependance.

I am, I must confess, exceedingly unwilling to go into any house without first knowing on what terms I do it, and wish that this sentiment could be again hinted, in delicate terms to the parties concerned with me. I cannot, if there are no latent motives, which govern in this case, see any difficulty in the business. *Mr. Morris* has most assuredly formed an idea of what ought, in equity, to be the rent of the tenement in the condition he left it, and with this aid, the Committee ought, I conceive, to be as little at a loss in determining what it should rent for with the additions and alterations, which are about to be made, and which ought to be done in a *plain* and *neat* manner, not by any means in an extravagant style; because the latter is not only contrary to my wish, but would really be detrimental [67] to my interest and convenience, principally because it would be a mean of keeping me from the use and comforts of the House to a late period, and because the furniture, and everything else would require to be accordant therewith, besides its making me pay an extravagant price, perhaps to suit the taste of another or to the exorbitant rates of workmen; or their blended performances in the two Houses.[68] I do not know, nor do I believe

[67] *Letters from George Washington to Tobias Lear* (Bixby edition: 1905) prints the word as "repugnant."

[68] *Letters from George Washington to Tobias Lear* prints at this point: "(if they sometimes work at one, and sometimes at the other)."

that anything unfair is intended by either Mr. Morris or the Committee; but let us for a moment suppose that the rooms (the new ones I mean) was to be hung with tapestry, or a very rich and costly paper (neither of which would suit my present furniture) that costly ornaments for the Bow-Windows, extravagant chimney pieces &ca. &ca. were to be provided; that workmen from extravagence or the times for every 20/ worth of work would charge 40/;[69] and that advantage should be taken of the occasion to new paint every part of the house, buildings &c, would there be any propriety in adding ten or 12½ pr Cent for all this to the rent of the house in its original state, for the two years that I am to hold it? If the solution of these questions are in the negative, wherein lyes the difficulty of determining that the houses and lots, when finished according to the proposed plan, ought to rent for so much? When all is done that can be done thereto, the residence will not be so commodious as the House I left in New York (with the additional buildings made there); for, there, (and the want of it will be found a real inconvenience at Mr. Morris's) my Office was in a front room below, where persons on business were at once admitted; whereas now they will have to ascend two pairs of stairs, and to pass by the public rooms to go to it.[70] Notwithstanding which I am willing to allow as much as was paid to Mr. Macomb, and shall say nothing if more is demanded, unless there is apparent extortion. Extortion, if it should be intended by delay is to see to what height rents will rise,[71] I should be unwilling to [submit to] and to take it at the expence of *any* public body *I will not.* There is one expression

[69] *Letters from George Washington to Tobias Lear* prints this: "were to charge a pound for that, which ought not to cost ten shillings."

[70] *Letters from George Washington to Tobias Lear* prints this: "as well as private chambers to get to."

[71] *Letters from George Washington to Tobias Lear* prints this: "before mine is fixed. In either of these cases I should not be pleased, and to occupy the premises at the expence of" etc.

in your letter of the 4th the meaning of which I do not clearly understand, viz, "The additions, repairs, &ca. of the house, in which Mr. Morris now lives, are likewise to be comprehended in the expenditures to be refunded by the rent of this House." Is it meant by this that the rent of the house *you* are now in is to be *encreased* by the expenditures on the one Mr. Morris has removed to, or is no more meant by it than that the *rent* of the former is intended as a *security* for the refund.[72] The latter may be very proper, but the former could be submitted to on no other ground than that of dire necessity.[73] I had rather have heard that my repaired Coach was plain and elegant than "rich and elegant. I am &c.[74]

To JAMES WOOD

Mount Vernon, November 18, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have been duly honored with your favor of the 6th., and thank you gratefully for your kind recollection of my interest in the survey made for Mullen on Timber ridge in Hampshire county. The enclosed (left open for your perusal) is a request that Colonel Heth, as Collector, would furnish you with the means for securing the land when the term, limited by law shall occlude Mullen, or any person or persons claiming under him.

The conferring of one favor is very apt to beget the request of another, but, without further preface or apology, I will ask you, my good Sir, to enquire at the Register's office, if surveys, of

[72] *Letters from George Washington to Tobias Lear* has: "only for payment of the latter."

[73] *Letters from George Washington to Tobias Lear* has: "If this is all, have nought to say against it. But dire necessity would only induce me to submit to the other. We all unite in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lear and I am etc."

[74] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

which the enclosed *may* be duplicates (for really I know little about the matter) were ever lodged there, and, if so, what has been done with them. If none such have been lodged there, then what will be the cost of patenting these which are now sent, provided (being on the No. West side of the river Ohio) they come legally and properly into the Land office of this State? I wish to obtain Patents, and shall be ready to pay the cost of them when it is made known to Dear Sir Yours etc.[75]

To THE CHIEF JUSTICE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, November 19, 1790.

My dear Sir: The day is near when Congress is to commence its 3rd. session; and, on Monday next, (nothing intervening to prevent it) I shall set out to meet them at their new residence.

If any thing in the Judiciary line, if any thing of a more general nature, proper for me to communicate to that Body at the opening of the session, has occurred to you, you would oblige me by submitting them with the freedom and frankness of friendship.

The length and badness of the road to Philadelphia, added to the precariousness of the weather at this season, will, more than probable, render my arrival at Philadelphia uncertain; your sentiments (under cover to Mr. Lear) by the 1st. of December will be in time to meet the communications from the other great Departments, and with such matters as have been handed immediately to me from other quarters, or which have come under my own contemplation during the recess will enable me to make my communications.

[75] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

I shall say nothing of domestic occurrences in this letter, and those of foreign import you would receive at second hand from hence.

To add assurances of my regard and friendship would not be new, but, with truth, I can declare etc.[76]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, November 19, 1790.

My dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 10th. instt, and will declare to you without reserve, that my forebodings with respect to the Expedition against the Wabash Indians are of disappointment; and a disgraceful termination under the conduct of B. Genl. Harmer.[77] I expected *little* from the moment I heard he was a *drunkard*. I expected *less* as soon as I heard that on *this account* no confidence was reposed in him by the people of the Western Country. And I gave up *all hope* of Success, as soon as I heard that there were disputes with *him* about command.

The latter information is from report *only;* but the report of *bad* news is rarely without foundation. If the issue of this Expedition is honorable to the Concerters of it, and favorable to our Arms, it will be *double* pleasing to me; but my mind, from the silence which reigns, and other circumstances, is prepared for the worst; that is, for expence without honor or profit.[1]

If any thing *more* than the statement of *this* business for the information of Congress should occur to you, previous to my arrival, be so good as to digest it, for it is my wish to have every

[76] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[77] Josiah Harmar was commander of the Army of the United States from September, 1789, to March, 1791, with the brevet rank of brigadier general.

matter which may occur to the heads of Departments as well as to myself, ready, if proper to lay before that Body, at the opening of the Session.

With sincere friendship etc.

P. S. I expect to commence my journey for Philadelphia on Monday; but from the State of the Roads after the incessant and heavy rains which have fallen, my progress must be slow.

[MS. H. S.]

To DOCTOR BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE

Mount Vernon, November 19, 1790.

Sir: I beg you to excuse the delay, which my avocations in the country have occasioned, in answering your letter of the 28th. of August.[78]

I am persuaded of the happy influence which the discourse,[79] that accompanied it, must have in promoting the interests of humanity, and I request you to accept my thanks for your polite attention in favoring me with this mark of your regard. I am etc.[80]

[M. H. S.]

To JAMES HENRY

Mount Vernon, November 20, 1790.

Sir: I availed myself a few days ago of the presence of Mr. B. Bassett to acknowledge before him and Dr. Stuart the *original conveyance* from me to the deceased Mr. Custis of the land which you are possessed of by purchase from him in King and Queen County. This acknowledgement in the opinion of professional men is all that is necessary to give validity to the deed, and all that is proper for me to do under the circumstances which exist.

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[78] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[79] The discourse probably was *The Principles of Vitality*, published in Boston in 1790.

[80] In the writing of William Jackson.

The deed thus reacknowledged, was put into the hands of Mr. Bassett, but as he was in the act of departure it did not occur to me at that moment, that there were other papers of yours in my possession. These are now enclosed. I beg you to be assured of my sensibility for the polite and flattering terms in which you have been pleased to express yourself of my public services in your letter of the 2 of June 1785, which I am ashamed to add ought to have been acknowledged long ago, but which one circumstance or another prevented until it had escaped me altogether or until reminded of it by your second application through Dr. Stuart. I am etc.[81]

To BENJAMIN HARRISON

Mount Vernon, November 21, 1790.

Dear Sir: If you serve me by having the deed from Muse[82] to me fully recorded, it will be an acceptable act. The deed is in the Clerk's Office, and will shew what is necessary to be done, and who are the witnesses. If it cannot be accomplished without running me to the expence of subpoenas, I must and will incur that expence.

Enclosed I send you all the Patents which are in my possession, and which through my means the family of Mr. Fry has obtained. It is a fact *well* known to most of the Patentees that had it not been for my exertions and decided conduct the proclamation of Governor Dinwiddie, offering a bounty of land, would never have been recognised. for the dereliction of the Governor and Council to fulfil their promise was such that scarce any thing short of an absolute demand on the score of justice, on the pledged faith of Government, would ever have

[81] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[82] George Muse.

obtained an order for the survey, and, even then, had it not been for the trouble I took, and the money I advanced, this order would have been nugatory.

This is a short recital of the fact; after having given which, if the Gentleman claiming under Joshua Fry Esquire inclines to pay what is justly due to me, the enclosed list of ballances, which is original, and for that reason must be returned to me, will shew what my advances are for his proportion of the land. If he pays this sum with interest since the year 1772 when the patents issued were paid for, and the title became perfect, it will be no more than what is due in *gratitude,* and to *justice.* If he inclines to pay the principal only, let him do it and the matter will close. Or, lastly, if he chuses to do neither, preferring to receive the patents without paying any thing, e'en let them go forth, for I shall not appear in a Court of law for this, or any of these ballances, which you will perceive are due to me.

The heirs of Colonel Fry, besides the land contained in the enclosed patent, are entitled to 7242 acres, in a larger tract, patented in the names of the late Genl. Andw. Lewis, Genl. Stephens [83] and others, but this patent is not in my possession, nor do I know in which of the Patentee's hands it is to be found. I am etc.[84]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Spurriers, November 23, 1790.

Dear Sir: With some difficulty (from the most infamous roads that ever were seen) we have got to this place, and are waiting dinner; but have no expectation of reaching Baltimore to Night.

Dunn has given such proofs of his want of skill in driving, that I find myself under a necessity of looking out for another

[83] Adam Stephen.
[84] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

Coachman.[85] Before we got to Elizabeth Town we were obliged to take him from the Coach and put him to the Waggon. This he turned over twice; and this Morning was found much intoxicated. He has also got the Horses into a habit of stopping.

Mrs. Washington's predeliction for Jacob is as strong, as my prejudices and fears are great. Yet in your enquiries after a Coachman ask something concerning Jacob. He wanted much it seems to return to us whilst we were in Philadelphia.

The Stage is this instant starting and I can only add that I am etc.[86]

*To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Philadelphia, December 1, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 26th. Ult came to my hands last night. If the information of Captn. Brant be true, the issue of the Expedition against the Indians [87] will indeed prove unfortunate; and disgraceful to the Troops who suffered themselves to be ambuscaded. The relation of this event carries with it, I must confess, the complexion of truth; yet, I will suspend my opinion until I hear something more of the matter. The force which was employed against these hostile Indians (or the drawing out of which was authorized) ought to have bid defiance

[85] On November 28 Robert Lewis wrote to John Fagin, of the Head of Elk, from Philadelphia, sending a copy of the agreement and terms of the President for employing a coachman. "If they are such as you can comply with in all respects, you will come on as soon as possible." Lewis's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

[86] From a facsimile in Decatur's *Private Affairs of George Washington* (Boston: 1933), p. 176. In this same volume (p. 173) is an extract of a letter from Washington to Lear (November 22): "Austin and Hercules go on in this day's Stage, and will unquestionably arrive several days before us. Richmond and Christoper embarked yesterday by water, the former (not from his appearance or merits I fear, but because he was a son of Hercules and his desire to have him as an assistant) comes as a scullion for the kitchen." The source is not given.

[87] Brigadier General Harmar's expedition against the Maumee Indians in Ohio destroyed Indian villages and crops, but was defeated in part, which defeat caused Indian forays on the frontier to such an extent the St. Clair's expedition became necessary. A court of inquiry in 1791 acquitted Harmar.

to the opposition of a thousand of them, because it was calculated for, undertaken and under the expectation of, meeting a larger number, if blows was to terminate the dispute.

It gives me pleasure to learn from you, the friendly sentiments of Capt. Brant; and with you I think, they merit cultivation; but he has not been candid in his acct. of the conduct of Genl. St. Clair, nor done justice in his representation of matters at Muskingham. It is notorious that he used all the art and influence of which he was possessed to prevent *any* treaty being held; and that, except in a small degree, Genl. St. Clair aimed at no more land by the Treaty of Muskingham than had been ceded by the preceeding Treaties.

With sentiments of very great regard etc.[88]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

[December 1(?) 1790.]

Dear Sir: Your indisposition has prevented me from giving you as much trouble in making my communications to Congress as otherwise, I might have done.

The article of your Notes which respect the loan in Holland, I am somewhat at a loss to frame into a paragraph for the Speech, and therefore pray your assistance.

I had got it as pr. the enclosed, but upon a revision, it does not appear right. Be so good therefore as to new model, and let me have it (if convenient to you) this afternoon with the sums expressed where necessary. I am etc.[89]

[88] From the original in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

[89] From the original in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. The assigned date is tentative.

In Princeton University is a brief note by Washington to James Madison, Dec. 2, 1790: "If Mr. Madison is at leizure the P. would be glad to see him."

To GEORGE STEPTOE WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, December 5, 1790.

Dear George: Agreeably to the promise which I gave to you in Virginia, I have made the necessary enquiries respecting the course of studies and expences, which would enable you and your Brother Lawrence to finish your education at the college in this place, provided you are Masters of those books and studies, which you informed me you had passed through.

The enclosed account of studies and expences, which I wish you to return to me, you will see is under the hand of the reverend Dr. Smith Provost of the College, and may therefore be relied upon for its accuracy. After you and Lawrence have carefully perused and well considered the enclosed statement, I wish you to determine whether you will come or not. If your determination should be in favor of coming on, I must impress this upon you both in the strongest manner viz. that you come with good dispositions and full resolutions to pursue your studies closely, conform to the established rules and customs of the College, and to conduct yourselves on all occasions with decency and propriety.

To you, George, I would more particularly address myself at this time, as from your advanced age it may be presumed that such advice, as I am about to give will make a deeper impression upon you than upon your Brother, and your conduct may very probably mark the line of his; But, at the same time Lawrence must remember that this is equally applicable to him.

Should you enter upon the course of studies here marked out you must consider it as the finishing of your education, and, therefore, as the time is limited, that every hour misspent is lost

for ever, and that future *years* cannot compensate for lost *days* at this period of your life. This reflection must shew the necessity of an unremitting application to your studies. To point out the importance of circumspection in your conduct, it may be proper to observe that a good moral character is the first essential in a man, and that the habits contracted at your age are generally indelible, and your conduct here may stamp your character through life. It is therefore highly important that you should endeavor not only to be learned but virtuous. Much more might be said to shew the necessity of application and regularity, but when you must know that without them you can never be qualified to render service to your country, assistance to your friends, or consolidation to your retired moments, nothing further need be said to prove their utility.

As to your clothing, it will, I presume, cost much the same here as in Alexandria. I shall always wish to see you clothed decently and becoming your stations; but I shall ever discountenance extravagance or foppishness in your dress. At all times, and upon all occasions I shall be happy to give you both such marks of my approbation, as your progress and good conduct merit.

If you determine to come on, you had better do it immediately, and Major Washington will furnish you with such money as may be necessary for the Stage and expences from Alexandria to this place. But I must repeat what I have before enjoined, that you come with good dispositions and determined resolutions to conform to establishments and pursue your studies.

Your aunt joins me in love to you both, and best wishes to Dr. Craik and family. I am, dear George, your sincere friend and affectionate uncle.

P. S. The Gentleman at whose house you can board, as mentioned in the enclosed paper, is, I am informed, well acquainted with Dr. Craik, from which circumstance you may be able to learn something of him.[90]

To WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH[91]

Philadelphia, December 7, 1790.

Sir: As I find the duties of your office can be executed by a deputy during your absence, and the business which calls you to Europe appearing to be important to your private interest; I feel a pleasure in complying with the request for leave of absence made in your letter of the 1st. instant, and sincerely wish you a pleasant voyage, a prosperous completion of your business and a happy return to your Country.

With very great esteem etc.[90]

SECOND ANNUAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

[December 8, 1790.]

Fellow citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives: In meeting you again I feel much satisfaction in being able to repeat my congratulations on the favorable prospects which continue to distinguish our public Affairs. The abundant fruits of another year have blessed our Country with plenty, and with the means of a flourishing commerce. The progress of public credit is witnessed by a considerable rise of American Stock abroad as well as at home. And the revenues allotted for this and other national purposes, have been productive beyond the calculations by which they were regulated. This latter circum-

[90] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[91] United States Marshal for the District of New York.

stance is the more pleasing as it is not only a proof of the fertility of our resources, but as it assures us of a further increase of the national respectability and credit; and let me add, as it bears an honorable testimony to the patriotism and integrity of the mercantile and marine part of our Citizens. The punctuality of the former in discharging their engagements has been exemplary.

In conforming to the powers vested in me by acts of the last Session, a loan of three millions of florins, towards which some provisional measures had previously taken place, has been completed in Holland. As well the celerity with which it has been filled, as the nature of the terms, (considering the more than ordinary demand for borrowing created by the situation of Europe) gives a reasonable hope that the further execution of those powers may proceed with advantage and success. The Secretary of the Treasury has my directions to communicate such further particulars as may be requisite for more precise information.

Since your last Sessions, I have received communications by which it appears, that the District of Kentucky, at present a part of Virginia, has concurred in certain propositions contained in a law of that State; in consequence of which the District is to become a distinct member of the Union, in case the requisite sanction of Congress be added. For this sanction application is now made. I shall cause the papers on this very important transaction to be laid before you. The liberality and harmony, with which it has been conducted will be found to do great honor to both the parties; and the sentiments of warm attachment to the Union and its present Government expressed by our fellow citizens of Kentucky cannot fail to add an affectionate concern for their particular welfare to the great national impressions under which you will decide on the case submitted to you.

It has been heretofore known to Congress, that frequent incursions have been made on our frontrier settlements by certain banditti of Indians from the North West side of the Ohio. These with some of the tribes dwelling on and near the Wabash have of late been particularly active in their depredations; and being emboldened by the impunity of their crimes, and aided by such parts of the neighboring tribes as could be seduced to join in their hostilities or afford them a retreat for their prisoners and plunder, they have, instead of listening to the humane overtures[92] made on the part of the United States, renewed their violences with fresh alacrity and greater effect. The lives of a number of valuable Citizens have thus been sacrificed, and some of them under circumstances peculiarly shocking; whilst others have been carried into a deplorable captivity.

These aggravated provocations rendered it essential to the safety of the Western Settlements that the aggressors should be made sensible that the Government of the Union is not less capable of punishing their crimes, than it is disposed to respect their rights and reward their attachments. As this object could not be effected by defensive measures it became necessary to put in force the Act, which empowers the President to call out the Militia for the protection of the frontiers. And I have accordingly authorized an expedition in which the regular troops in that quarter are combined with such drafts of Militia as were deemed sufficient. The event of the measure is yet unknown to me. The Secretary of war is directed to lay before you a statement of the information on which it is founded, as well as an estimate of the expence with which it will be attended.

The disturbed situation of Europe, and particularly the critical posture of the great maritime powers, whilst it ought to

[92] Richardson's *Messages and Papers of the Presidents* prints this as "invitations and overtures."

make us more thankful for the general peace and security enjoyed by the United States, reminds us at the same time of the circumspection with which it becomes us to preserve these blessings. It requires also that we should not overlook the tendency of a war and even of preparations for a war, among the Nations most concerned in active Commerce with this Country, to abridge the means, and thereby at least enhance the price of transporting its valuable productions to their proper markets. I recommend it to your serious reflexion how far and in what mode, it may be expedient to guard against embarrassments from these contingencies, by such encouragements to our own Navigation as will render our commerce and agriculture less dependent on foreign bottoms, which may fail us in the very moments most interesting to both of these great objects. Our fisheries, and the transportation of our own produce offer us abundant means for guarding ourselves against this evil.

Your attention seems to be not less due to that particular branch of our trade which belongs to the Mediterranean. So many circumstances unite in rendering the present state of it distressful to us, that you will not think any deliberations misemployed, which may lead to its relief and protection.

The laws you have already passed for the establishment of a Judiciary System have opened the doors of Justice to all descriptions of persons. You will consider in your wisdom, whether improvements in that system may yet be made; and particularly whether a uniform process of execution on sentences issuing, from the federal Courts be not desireable through all the states.

The patronage of our commerce, of our merchants and Seamen, has called for the appointment of Consuls in foreign Countries. It seems expedient to regulate by law the exercise of that Jurisdiction and those functions which are permitted them, either by express Convention, or by a friendly indulgence

in the places of their residence. The Consular Convention too with his most Christian Majesty has stipulated in certain cases, the aid of the national authority to his Consuls established here. Some legislative provision is requisite to carry these stipulations into full effect.

The establishment of the Militia; of a mint; of Standards of weights and measures; of the Post Office and Post Roads are subjects which (I presume) you will resume of course, and which are abundantly urged by their own importance.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: The sufficiency of the Revenues you have established for the objects to which they are appropriated, leaves no doubt that the residuary provisions will be commensurate to the other objects for which the public faith stands now pledged. Allow me, moreover, to hope that it will be a favorite policy with you not merely to secure a payment of the Interest of the debt funded, but, as far and as fast as [the] growing resources of the Country will permit, to exonerate it of the principal itself. The appropriation you have made of the Western Lands explains your dispositions on this subject: And I am persuaded the sooner that valuable fund can be made to contribute along with other means to the actual reduction of the public debt, the more salutary will the measure be to every public interest, as well as the more satisfactory to our Constituents.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives: In pursuing the various and weighty business of the present Session I indulge the fullest persuasion that your consultations will be equally marked with wisdom, and animated by the love of your Country. In whatever belongs to my duty, you shall have all the co-operation which an undiminished zeal for its welfare can inspire. It will be happy for us both, and our best reward, if

by a successful administration of our respective trusts we can make the established Government more and more instrumental in promoting the good of our fellow Citizens, and more and more the object of their attachment and confidence.[93]

To JAMES MADISON

[December 10? 1790].

Mr. Madison: Let me entreat you to finish the good offices you have begun for me, by giving short answers (as can be with propriety) to the enclosed addresses; I must have them ready by Monday.[94]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

December 11, 1790.

Dear Sir: Herewith you will receive the Powers and Instructions with which Gouvr. Morris Esqr. is invested, and his

[93] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On December 8 Tobias Lear wrote to the Secretary of State: "I have likewise the honor to transmit, by the President's order, a letter and packet from the President of the National Assembly of France directed to the President and Members of the American Congress; This direction prevented the President from opening them when they came to his hands, and he yesterday caused them to be delivered to the Vice-President that they might be opened by the Senate. The Vice President returned them unopened with an opinion of the Senate that they might be opened with more propriety by the President of the United States, and a request that he would do it, and communicate to Congress such parts of them as in his opinion might be proper to be laid before the Legislature.

"The President therefore requests that you would become acquainted with their contents and inform what (if any) should be laid before Congress. Another letter from the National Assembly addressed particularly to the President is enclosed herewith for your perusal: The President has the translation of this letter."

Jefferson reported that the subject of the papers was the death of the late Dr. Franklin, and on December 10 Lear, by direction of the President, delivered the papers to the Senate, with a formal verbal message, which is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.* Sparks prints what he says is an "unskillful and imperfect translation of the letter from the President of France's National Assembly in his edition of *Washington's Writings,* vol. 10, p. 497."

[94] The text is from the sales catalogue of the *Washington-Madison Papers* (McGuire Collection, 1892).

Communications consequent thereof. You will give them the consideration their importance merit, and report your opinion of the measures proper to be taken thereupon.

The following extract from one of my *private* letters to Mr. Morris contain all the Notice I have *yet* taken of his public communications. I give it that you may have the whole matter before you. . . .[95]

*To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, December 12, 1790.

Dear Sir: On my return to this City, at Elkridge landing (eight miles beyond Baltimore) a Negroe fellow of the name of Paul, (brother to your Rose) came to, and informed me, that he was taken (more probably run away from the White House Quarter) by the Troops under Lord Cornwallis. That he was put on board a British Vessel, was taken by an American one, and carried into Baltimore; where he was sold to a Captn. Godman, who afterwds. disposed of him to his present Master, a Mr. Philip Waters of the landing above mentioned. The fellow is young and likely, and seems desirous of returning to the Estate from which he was taken. The character of him I know not. The facts are, I presume, as I have related; but it is to be feared that time and circumstances have alienated the property. I thought it right however to give you this information.

I have been led to ask myself since you mentioned to me the exorbitant Rent expected by Mr. R Alexander for the place on which you now, or lately did live, upon what foundation it could be?

[95] The omitted portion is the same down to "I shall write to you more fully on that head" as that in Washington's letter to Gouverneur Morris, July 7, 1790, *q. v.* From the original in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Conress.

This naturally led me into another enquiry, viz, what are the Rents of lands at the distance of 6, 8 or 10 miles from Alexandria? In revolving this matter, no case was more apropos, or seemed more in point, than my contract with Mrs. French; to whom I pay One hundred and thirty Six pounds pr. Ann for about 600 Acres of land, and ten working hands. The land equal to Mr. Alexanders, lyes as you know on the River, and little, if any, less convenient to the Alexandria market than his. The Negroes as likely as any in the Country, one only excepted, who, by being advanced in years is less able to work than the rest. This bargain originated in or about the year 1783 between Mrs. French and one Robinson, who finding it difficult (tho' an industrious man) to clear any thing by the Bargain, and being always behind hand in the Rent, agreed, after I had purchased the fee simple of the land to relinquish it (for a small consideration) to me. To this Mrs. French readily acquiesced, and for the addition of fourteen pounds to the Rent, has leased it to me for her life; it being let to Robinson for Seven years only; at the expiration of which the rent of £150 commences. The taxes of the land and Negroes Robinson was, and I am to pay. I am also to Clothe and feed the Negroes. The rent is neither to increase or diminish; the chance of the increase of the Negroes, and consequently of their work, was placed against the decrease; and no deaths have happened, whilst five or Six are now of full size for half sharers. This Bargain as I have been informed was thot. by the friends of Mrs. French to be an advantageous one, for her. I think so too. Upon what principle then can Mr. Alexander talk of the Rent you say he expects? When taxes, unfavorable Seasons, and other contingencies are taken into calculation, he will not find, among those who *mean to pay,* one who will come near his exorbitant ideas. If there is inability in the

way, or no intention of doing it, it is a matter of no consequence whether five hundred or fifty pounds, is the Rent stipulated.

With great esteem and regard I am etc.[96] [H. S. P.]

*To EDWARD RUTLEDGE

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 15, 1790.

My dear Sir: I will make no apology for introducing the bearer, Colo. John Trumbull to your friendship and Civilities. You will find him worthy of both. Yrs. Affectionately.

[H. S. P.]

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Philadelphia, December 17, 1790.

Dear Sir: An official letter from the Secretary of State of this date, acknowledging the receipt of your public dispatches, will discover to you my sentiments on the views and intentions of the british Cabinet. If the exigencies of the national affairs of that kingdom should excite dispositions in it favorable to a commercial treaty with the United States, and to the fulfilment of the treaty of peace, its Ministers will, of themselves, come forward with propositions. Until these are apparent to them, and press, I am satisfied from the communications you have had with them, that it is not only useless, but would be derogatory to push them any farther on the first point or to say anything more on the latter, until we are in a situation to speak with more

[96] On December 13 the Senate and the House of Representatives waited upon the President at his house, the Senate at 12 o'clock and the House at 2 p. m., and presented addresses to the President, to which he replied briefly. The Senate's address was agreed to December 10, and that of the House, December 11. These addresses and the President's brief replies are entered in the "Letter Book" and are printed in full in Richardson's *Messages and Papers of the Presidents,* as also in the *Annals of Congress.* (See Washington's letter to James Madison, Dec. 10, 1790, *ante.*)

decision. If none of my letters to you have acknowledged the receipt of your favors of the 22nd. and 24th. of January last, I have to ask your pardon for giving you the trouble of sending Triplicates; and for the vexation the supposed loss of them has occasioned. It must be owing to an omission, or to the miscarriage of my letters that this has not been done; for both of them and the duplicates have been received.

Since writing to you on the 7 of July I have been favored with your several private letters of July the 6th. and 16th. 26. and 30 of August. All the letters, the dates of which are enumerated in that of the 6th. have come safe; and I pray you, though late, to accept my thanks for the seeds which you was so obliging as to send to me by Mr. le Couteulx. They were immediately forwarded to my Gardner at Mount Vernon with orders to pay particular attention to them.

There is a *tale* hanging to the coyness discovered in Mr. Welch, not to exceed the ballance which *he* has made of the account between us, which to *me* stands in need of no explanation, and to you the relation of it in detail would be tedious and unimportant. The plain English of it however is, that there are articles of charge in the debits of that House against *me* which reduce the ballance in my favor some hundreds below what *I* conceive is just. His knowledge of this circumstance and the probable consequence makes him desirous (by holding the staff in his own hands) to throw the labouring oar upon me; but, as you may have incurred a further expence in the additional plateau, I have requested that Gentleman (Mr. Welch) by the enclosed order, to pay you what *he conceives* to be the ballance due to me.[97]

[97] On December 17 Washington wrote briefly to Wakelin Welch & Son to pay this balance to Gouverneur Morris. This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

For the cost of the Coolers and Lamps, Mr. Constable (including a bill of £60. remitted to you by Colonel Humphreys) was immediately paid, together with the freight and other charges, agreeably to the account forwarded in your letter of the 16 of August, and for the trouble you have had in this business, and advances to accomplish it, I feel myself under peculiar obligations. The articles are elegant; and I am perfectly satisfied with the price of them, pleased too by the addition of decanters.

Congress has commenced its third session. Our affairs assume a good aspect. Public credit is high, and stocks have risen amazingly. Except the disturbances occasioned by a few hostile Indians on our frontiers (western) (instigated thereto I am persuaded by the british Traders) and some remains of the old leaven, the wheels of government move without interruption, and gather strength as they move.

The numbers of our people as far as they can be ascertained from the present stage of the Census, will not fall short, it is said, of five millions, some think more.

Whilst this will on the one hand astonish Europe, it may on the other add consequence to the union of these States. Adieu!

With very sincere esteem etc.[98]

*To BURGES BALL

Philadelphia, December 19, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 7th. instt. came duly to hand, but the multiplicity of matters that pressed upon me at the time, prevented an earlier acknowledgment.

I write to you now respecting an exchange of Lands because you wished to hear from me soon, on that subject, not because

[98] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

I think there is the least probability of such an exchange taking effect. I judge so from the ideas I have formed (from the tenor of your letter) indicative of your expectations; first, because the land I alluded to, lying on Bullskin in County of Berkeley, most congenial I suppose to your wishes, is, *all of it,* under leases. and secondly (supposing that to be the tract you had in contemplation, and was knowing to the quantity contained in it, viz., between 1500 and 2000 Acres) because you have, in my estimation, greatly underrated the value of my land, or over-rated that of your own, by supposing money is to be given to make up the difference. Lands of the quality of those I hold in Berkeley sell currently at from £3. 10 to £5 pr. Acre, which is full as high, I conceive, as yours would do.

How far the leases might impede the Sale, if I was disposed to sell, I know not; but after what you have said, it is incumbent on me to inform you, that I have no land between the Blue ridge and the Western Waters which are not leased. In the County of Fayette, 40 miles this side Pittsburgh on one of the Roads leading thereto from Winchester, and in a thick settled and secure Country, I have a tract of about 1700 Acres equal to any whatever, with good plantations thereon (one of which is large) and other appendages.

In the County adjoining, viz Washington, and about 16 miles from Fort Pitt, I have another tract of estimable land, rather over 3,000 Acres; with 15 or 16 farms on it, well watered and meadowed. This tract is also in a thick settled, and perfectly secure Country. Both lye in the State of Pensylvania, and my Agent near the premises has been authorized to let the tenements for 5 or 7 years (I do not recollect which) but whether he has done it, or not, I am unable to say. For the first of these tracts I could once have recd. 40/. Pensa. Curry. pr. Acre, and for the other 30/. like money; but like all other landed property

they have fallen in value; tho' I never yet have offered them for less. Beyond these, on the Great Kanhawa, half way between Pittsburgh or Fort Pitt and Kentucky; and on the Ohio above the Kanhawa; I hold the most valuable River bottoms in all that country of considerable extent, on both those Waters; nearly opposite to which, on the No Wt. side of the Ohio, respectable Settlements are formed, and forming.

I mention these circumstances with no other view than, should your thoughts extend to the Country beyond the Alligany, you may have the greater variety of prospects and offers to chuse from.

Mrs. Washington unites in best wishes for yourself and Mrs. Ball and I am etc.[99]

To CHARLES CARTER

Philadelphia, December 19, 1790.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the first instant came duly to hand, but it found me under such a pressure of business that I was unable to give it an immediate acknowledgement.

I am sorry for the information you have given me, and wish sincerely it was in my power to relieve you from the disagreeable situation into which you are thrown, but it really is not. The particular object to which your views are pointed, besides its being under some previous arrangement would by no means subserve your purpose. The law authorising the appointment of Commissioners for conducting the federal buildings &ca. supposed that the zeal of those who are friends to the measure, would alone be sufficient to prompt them to undertake the duties of it, and therefore it has made no provision for the trouble

[99] From a photostat of the original which is in the possession of Breckinridge Long, Washington, D. C.

imposed on them. The most therefore that can be calculated upon is an allowance of their *actual* expenses. I am etc.[1]

To GEORGE STEPTOE WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, December 19, 1790.

Dear George: From the tenor of your letter of the 10 inst. which came to my hands on Thursday last, it does not appear that Lawrence is to come on to this place with you, for he is not mentioned in any part of the letter. It is my intention that you should both enter the College together, and if you look over my letter of the 5th. instant you will see that both are mentioned. If therefore any thing should occur to prevent you setting off on Monday as you had determined, and this letter should reach you before you leave Alexandria, I request that Lawrence may come on with you. I am etc.[2]

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[1] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[2] Practically this same letter was written to Dr. James Craik, requesting that Lawrence be sent "in the stage as soon after the receipt of this letter as he can be prepared to come." This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On December 21 Lear wrote to Joseph Cook, of Philadelphia: "It having been intimated to the President of the United States that you are about to have his arms fixed over your shop, with the addition of your being silver Smith to the President. He has therefore directed me to inform you that the carrying the foregoing intention into effect will be very disagreeable to him and he requests you would not do it." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On December 22 Lear wrote to the Postmaster General that the President approved his discretion in letting mail contracts. "There does not appear to the President (especially *where circumstances vary*) to be a strict obligation to prefer the lowest offer, and in the case of Mr. Inskeep, the greater frequency of conveying the Mail, the concentration of the business under one direction, and the past experience of good conduct are weighty reasons for the preference of his offer meditated by the Post Master General." Lear's letter is also recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On December 23 the President sent a message to the Senate and House of Representatives on the report of the Secretary of the Northwest Territory concerning certain land grant cases "which require the interference of the Legislature of the Unted States." This message is entered in the "Letter Book," where the following note is added: "N. B. As the foregoing Report and papers are very voluminous, one Copy only was made out, and that delivered to the House of Representatives, with a request to the Speaker that they might be communicated to the Senate."

On December 25, or shortly thereafter, Washington drew up a tabular statement of his "Losses in Horses, Cattle and Sheep since the 16th day of April 1789." This document is in the *Washington Papers.*

To BATTAILE MUSE

Philadelphia, December 27, 1790.

Sir: A letter which will be shewn to you by my Nephew (if the facts be true as I presume they are) is from a near relation of mine. Feeling for her situation I am desirous of affording relief, and therefore, request if there is any vacant tenement of mine in Berkeley, Frederick, Fauquier, or Loudoun, under your care that you will give her a lease, for it, rent free, for the natural lives of herself and Daughter, Sally Ball Haynie, and, moreover, by pecuniary aids (to be drawn from your collection of my rents) to enable her to put the place in a little repair. If there are more than one lot vacant, She may take her choice of them. I am etc.[3]

To ELIZABETH HAYNIE

Philadelphia, December, 27, 1790.

Dear Cousin: Your letter of the 19 of October never reached my hands until a few days ago. I am very sorry to hear of the distressed situation in which you are, and have written to Mr. Muse, to whom the management of my Tenements in Berkeley, Frederick, Loudoun and Fauquier is committed to let you have any one of them, that may be unoccupied, rent free during your own and the life of your Daughter Sally Ball Haynie and moreover to afford you some aid towards putting the place in order.

It is incumbent on me however to observe to you that if there are not in either of those Counties above mentioned any vacant lots belonging to me, it is out of my power to assist you in this way, first because I have no lands in either of the Counties above mentioned except such as have been laid off into Tenements

[3]From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

and offered on leases, and secondly because the lands, round about my dwelling house in Fairfax County, are occupied by Negroes for my own support.

My Nephew Major George Augustine Washington will endeavor to see and deliver this letter to you, if you live any where in the neighbourhood of his Father in Berkeley County, and will receive from you, and report to me a more particular statement of your circumstances than your letter has done. In the interim I can assure you of the good dispositions towards you of Your affectionate kinsman.[4]

To THE CORNPLANTER, HALF TOWN, AND GREAT TREE, CHIEFS AND COUNSELORS OF THE SENECA NATION OF INDIANS

Philadelphia, December 29, 1790.[5]

I the President of the United States, by my own mouth, and by a written Speech signed with my own hand [and sealed with the Seal of the U S] Speak to the Seneka Nation, and desire their attention, and that they would keep this Speech in remembrance of the friendship of the United States.

I have received your Speech with satisfaction, as a proof of your confidence in the justice of the United States, and I have attentively examined the several objects which you have laid before me, whether delivered by your Chiefs at Tioga point in the last month to Colonel Pickering, or laid before me in the present month by the Cornplanter and the other Seneca Chiefs now in Philadelphia.

In the first place I observe to you, and I request it may sink deep in your minds, that it is my desire, and the desire of the

[4] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*
[5] Sparks dates and prints this as in the year 1791.

United States that all the miseries of the late war should be forgotten and buried forever. That in future the United States and the six Nations should be truly brothers, promoting each other's prosperity by acts of mutual friendship and justice.

I am not uninformed that the six Nations have been led into some difficulties with respect to the sale of their lands since the peace. But I must inform you that these evils arose before the present government of the United States was established, when the separate States and individuals under their authority, undertook to treat with the Indian tribes respecting the sale of their lands.

But the case is now entirely altered. The general Government only has the power, to treat with the Indian Nations, and any treaty formed and held without its authority will not be binding.

Here then is the security for the remainder of your lands. No State nor person can purchase your lands, unless at some public treaty held under the authority of the United States. The general government will never consent to your being defrauded. But it will protect you in all your just rights.

Hear well, and let it be heard by every person in your Nation, That the President of the United States declares, that the general government considers itself bound to protect you in all the lands secured you by the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, the 22d of October 1784, excepting such parts as you may since had fairly sold to persons properly authorized to purchase of you.

You complain that John Livingston and Oliver Phelps have obtained your lands, assisted by Mr. Street of Niagara, and they have not complied with their agreement.

It appears upon enquiry of the Governor of New York, that John Livingston was not legally authorized to treat with you,

and that every thing he did with you has been declared null and void, so that you may rest easy on that account.

But it does not appear from any proofs yet in the possession of government, that Oliver Phelps has defrauded you.

If however you should have any just cause of complaint against him, and can make satisfactory proof thereof, the federal Courts will be open to you for redress, as to all other persons.

But your great object seems to be the security of your remaining lands, and I have therefore upon this point, meant to be sufficiently strong and clear.

That in future you cannot be defrauded of your lands. That you possess the right to sell, and the right of refusing to sell your lands.

That therefore the sale of your lands in future, will depend entirely upon yourselves.

But that when you may find it for your interest to sell any parts of your lands, the United States must be present by their Agent, and will be your security that you shall not be defrauded in the bargain you may make.

[It will however be important, that before you make any further sales of your land that you should determine among yourselves, who are the persons among you that shall give sure conveyances thereof as shall be binding upon your Nation and forever preclude all disputes related to the validity of the sale.]

That besides the [before mentioned] security for your land, you will perceive by the law of Congress, for regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes, the fatherly care the United States intend to take of the Indians. For the particular meaning of this law, I refer you to the explanations given thereof by Colonel Pickering at Tioga, which with the law, are herewith delivered to you.

You have said in your Speech "That the game is going away from among you, and that you thought it the design of the great Spirit, that you should till the ground, but before you speak upon this subject, you want to know whether the United States meant to leave you any land to till?"

You now know that all the lands secured to you by the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, excepting such parts as you may since have fairly sold are yours, and that only your own acts can convey them away; speak therefore your wishes on the subject of tilling the ground. The United States will be happy to afford you every assistance in the only business which will add to your numbers and happiness.

The murders that have been committed upon some of your people, by the bad white men I sincerely lament and reprobate, and I earnestly hope that the real murderers will be secured, and punished as they deserve. This business has been sufficiently explained to you here, by the Governor of Pennsylvania, and by Colonel Pickering on behalf of the United States, at Tioga.

The Senekas may be assured, that the rewards offered for apprehending the murderers, will be continued until they are secured for trial, and that when they shall be apprehended, that they will be tried and punished as if they had killed white men.

Having answered the most material parts of your Speech, I shall inform you, that some bad Indians, and the outcast of several tribes who reside at the Miamee Village, have long continued their murders and depredations upon the frontiers, lying along the Ohio. That they have not only refused to listen to my voice inviting them to peace, but that upon receiving it, they renewed their incursions and murders with greater violence than ever. I have therefore been obliged to strike those bad

people, in order to make them sensible of their madness. I sincerely hope they will hearken to reason, and not require to be further chastised. The United States desire to be the friends of the Indians, upon terms of justice and humanity. But they will not suffer the depredations of the bad Indians to go unpunished.

My desire is that you would caution all the Senekas and six Nations, to prevent their rash young men from joining the Miamee Indians. For the United States cannot distinguish the tribes to which bad Indians belong, and every tribe must take care of their own people.

The merits of the Cornplanter, and his friendship for the United States are well known to me, and shall not be forgotten. And as a mark of the esteem of the United States, I have directed the Secretary of war to make him a present of Two hundred and Fifty Dollars, either in money or goods, as the Cornplanter shall like best. And he may depend upon the future care and kindness of the United States. And I have also directed the Secretary of War to make suitable presents to the other Chiefs present in Philadelphia. And also that some further tokens of friendship to be forwarded to the other Chiefs, now in their Nation.

Remember my words Senekas, continue to be strong in your friendship for the United States, as the only rational ground of your future happiness, and you may rely upon their kindness and protection.

An Agent shall soon be appointed to reside in some place convenient to the Senekas and six Nations. He will represent the United States. Apply to him on all occasions.

If any man brings you evil reports of the intentions of the United States, mark that man as your enemy, for he will mean

to deceive you and lead you into trouble. The United States will be true and faithful to their engagements.[6]

To THE CHIEFS AND WARRIORS OF THE CHICKASAW NATION

December 30, 1790.

Brothers: You have been informed that last Spring, I sent Major Doughty, one of the warriors of the United States, to brighten the Chain of friendship with the Chickasaw nation, and to assure them of the firm adherence of the United States to the treaty of Hopewell. You know the disaster which befell him by the attack of some bad Indians on the Tenassee, who violated the white flag of peace.

Brothers: I now repeat to you my assurances respecting the treaty of Hopewell, that the United States will adhere thereto, and consider it as binding on them.

The United States do not want any of your lands, if any bad people tell you otherwise they deceive you, and are your enemies, and the enemies of the United States.

Mr. Vigo,[7] the bearer, will bring to you goods conformably to the treaty of Hopewell, and I shall take other measures early in the next year, to convince you of the further kindness of the United States. In the meantime hold fast the Chain of friendship, and do not believe any evil reports against the justice and integrity of the United States.[8]

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[6] The draft is in the writing of a War Department clerk. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Henry Knox.

[7] Joseph Maria Francesco Vigo, of Vincennes.

[8] A copy in the writing of a War Department clerk. On December 30 the same speech was sent to "the Medal and Georget Chiefs and Captains and Warriors of the Choctaw Nation."

On December 31 Washington wrote to Timothy Pickering, forwarding him the report of the Secretary at War on Pickering's "transactions with the Senaca Indians in November last. . . . I am happy to add my entire approbation of your conduct in that business." This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE HEBREW CONGREGATIONS OF PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK, CHARLESTON AND RICHMOND

[December —, 1790].

Gentlemen: The liberal sentiment towards each other which marks every political and religious denomination of men in this country stands unrivalled in the history of nations. The affection of such people is a treasure beyond the reach of calculation; and the repeated proofs which my fellow citizens have given of their attachment to me, and approbation of my doings form the purest source of my temporal felicity. The affectionate expressions of your address again excite my gratitude, and receive my warmest acknowledgements.[9]

The power and goodness of the Almighty were strongly manifested in the events of our late glorious revolution, and his kind interposition in our behalf has been no less visible in the establishment of our present equal government. In war he directed the sword and in peace he has ruled in our councils, my agency in both has been guided by the best intentions, and a

[9]The original of the address from the Hebrew congregations is undated; but is indorsed by Lear "Deld. Decr. 13th 1790," and is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

At the end of the year 1790, in the *Washington Papers*, are several miscellaneous agricultural memoranda in Washington's writing. One is a table of the rotation of crops on French's and the Ferry Farms from the year 1790 to 1797, on the verso of which is the following note: "If the within system is pursued, the most indifferent parts of the fields which are in Corn, must be sown with Rye, if they should be deemed inadequate to the produce of Wheat. And, as there will be no ground particularly appropriated for a crop of Sundries, the Corn in future must be planted in drills, as formerly, and Potatoes Carrots &ca raised between them.

"The Crop of Oats may well be dispensed with. Ist. because they are an uncertain Crop. 2d. because they are considered as a great impoverisher of the Soil; and 3d. because it would be more œconomical to buy than raise them as a bushel of Wheat in price is generally, equal to 4 bushels of Oats; and the land in a good year will rarely yield in a quadruple proportion."

Another of these memoranda consists of "The New-Rotation—by G. W. No. 7" from the year 1790 to 1796, "Mr. Whiting's Rotation" from the year 1790 to 1797, with the monetary cost of each rotation scheme, and "Observations" on both.

sense of the duty which I owe my country: and as my exertions hitherto have been amply rewarded by the approbation of my fellow-citizens, I shall endeavor to deserve a continuance of it by my future conduct. . . .[10]

*ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF MRS. FRENCH'S LAND AND NEGROES ON DOGUE CREEK, COMPARED WITH THE PRODUCE BY WHICH IT WILL BE SEEN WHAT THE TENANT IS TO EXPECT

[1790?[11]]

Rent				£136. 0. 0
Cloathing 4 Men and 6 Women, viz.				
60 Ells best Germn. Oznbgs. @ 16d	£4.	0.	0	
50 yds. best Cotton....2/6	6.	5.	0	
10 pair of Shoes....6/	3			
Repairing do at least	1			
10 pair plaid Stocking..2/6	1.	5		
Blankets: Suppose 5 only in the year for the whole 23 Negroes @ 10/	2.	10.		
	18.	0.	0	
13 young Negroes will cost at least half what is here charged for the old ones; but it shall be set down at 1/3 only	6.	—		
				24
Feeding: 23 Negroes, viz:				
3 Barls. of Corn each, comes to 69 Barrl. and this @ 12/6 is				43: 2: 6

[10] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[11] This date is tentative. Washington considered this purchase seriously in 1787; but the first negotiations, of which very brief allusions are found in the "Diaries," were for a rental, which Washington mentions in his letter to David Stuart, Dec. 12, 1790, *ante*. This calculation, made some time between 1783 and 1790, seemingly settled in Washington's mind the conviction that purchase was more economical and better business than rental.

Fish: say 10 Barrls. @ 15/	7. 10. 0	
Meat now and then: suppose 500 weight in all @ 30/	7. 10. —	
Milk, fat, &ca. cannot be had without cost. but say nothg		
		58: 2. 6
Doctor Suppose one is called only 6 times a year; the visits alone without Medicine, will cost		6. 0. 0
Midwife: twice a year is the least		1. 0. —
Taxes: Of the Land (this may be reduced to a certainty, but as I do not know what the assessment is) I will call it only £10	10. 0. 0	
10 Working hands, and the Overr. @ 20/	11. 0. 0	
13 young Negroes @ 10/	6. 10 —	
		27. 10. 0
Levies: County and Parish, mine last year was 37 lbs of Tobo. pr Poll; 11 of these is 407 lbs, wch. @ 16/8 pr C comes to		3. 7. 10
Horses. This Plantation will require at least 6 for Plowing. These if good cannot be bought for less than £12 a piece which comes to £ 72; the interest for which cannot be less than 10 pr Ct. because by Accidents and natural decay you can calculate upon their services more if so much as 7 yrs.; 10 pr Ct. then comes to	7. 4. 0	
Feeding these horses will require at least 6 Barrls. of Corn for each; this amount to 36 Barls. @ 12/6, is	22. 0. 0	
Plows, Cart, and their gears will cost at least, £4 pr. Ann	4. 0. 0	
		33: 4: 0
Tools for the Negroes, these are generally estimated at 20/. a hand		...10.
Smiths and Carpenters Work will, I should suppose, amt. to at least £4 pr. Ann		... 4. 0. 0

Wheat for Sowing. Suppose 80 Acres, or 100,000 Corn hills; which is as much as 10 hands (6 of them breeding Women can attend) to be laid down in Wheat. this will take 80 Bls. of Seed, @ 5/ comes to.....		..20. 0. 0
Overseers Wages, &ca. If he is worth having, and standing wages is given to him his price will not be less than £35. pr. Ann. If he receives part of the Crop it will be a deduction from the produce below, on the credit side.	35. 0 —	
Meat for Do. not less than 500 lbs. @ 30/....	7. 10 —	
Corn, at least 5 Barls. if a family. Perhaps a great deal more but call it 5 Barls. only @12/6.....	3. 2. 6	
		45:12: 6
		368. 16. 10

Note, Besides the above expenditures which are certain, and unavoidable, there are many others, such as Harvesting which will only be thouhgt of as they occur, but wch, nevertheless, will be drawbacks.

Now, let us see what it is probable this plantation will produce Annually. Wheat and Corn, or Corn and Tobacco are the usual Crops; where all 3 are attempted, the whole I believe, are generalyl injured and the profit not greater unless the expence in harvesting the Wheat is done by hired hands

80 Acres of Corn, or 100,000 Corn hills for a gang chiefly composed of breeding women will, it is presumed be thought full enough. this at 2½ Barrls. to the 1000 wch. I am sure is more than the Land will yield makes 250 Bls. at 12/6 is.....	156. 5.
80 Acres, or 100,000 Corn hills in Wheat at 7 bushls. to the Acre (more than any body in this Neighbourhood gets) is 560 Bushls. this at 5/. comes to.....	140 —

Or

Instead of Wheat, suppose Tobo. is made, 1200 lbs a share
it is presumed is as much as can be expected; this wd.
be 12 Hds. @ 20/. wd. be £120

amt. of Crops	£296. 5. 0
Loss to the Tenant	72. 11. 10
	[12] £368. 16. 10

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sunday, January 2, 1791.

Dear Sir: The enclosed Notes[13] are sufficiently descriptive to comprehend the *two* objects fully; but it is necessary to remark, that if the *first* line[14] begins at a point on Hunting Creek, the *fourth* line cannot, in any part *touch* (though it will *include*) the Town of Alexandria; because Huntg. Creek is below the boundaries of the Town. And, if it could be so ordered as for the *first line* to avoid *touching* the town, that is, to allow room for its extending backwards, as well as up and down the River, without throwing too much of the district into Virginia, it would be a desirable measure. Where are the Acts, or Resolutions of the States of Virginia and Maryland (respecting the Cession of the ten miles Square) to be met with? If to be brought from the Archives of these States, much time will be required in obtaining them: but quere, are they not among the deposits of the Genl. Government.? The presumption is, that they were transmitted by the two States above mentioned. Yrs. Affectly.[15]

[12] In a contemporary, but unidentified hand, the following is written in the left-hand margin: "it is my opinion there is nothing in this Calculation but what is Reasonable."

[13] These notes of the courses and distances are, with this letter, in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[14] The southwest boundary line of the District of Columbia.

[15] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To GOVERNOR ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 2, 1791.

Dear Sir: In the Journals of the Proceedings of the Executive in the North Western Territory, there appears to be certain regulations made by the Executive under the Articles of the 25th. of April; 6th. 28th. and 29th. of June last, which can, with propriety, only be established by Laws.

In noticing these, my mind naturally recurred to your letter to me dated at Cahokea on the first of May last, wherein you observe, that the absence of the Judges had embarrassed you a great deal; and after waiting for them as long as possible, that you had been under the necessity of directing by proclamation certain regulations suited to the peculiar circumstances of the Country. These you had no doubt would be soon confirmed by law, and the necessity of the case offered an excuse for having exceeded your proper Powers.

The imperfect State in which the Legislation of the North Western Territory is, the want which the Executive has often felt of the necessary coadjutors to adopt even the most urgent Laws, and the peculiar situation of a frontier Country, are circumstances which may not strike every one who will observe that the Executive has gone beyond its proper powers. It therefore becomes a matter of high importance that the utmost circumspection should be observed in the conduct of the Executive; for there are not wanting persons who would rejoice to find the slightest ground of clamour against public Characters; and paying no regard to the absolute necessity of the case which caused a momentary stretch of power, nor the public

good which might be produced by it, they would seize the occasion of making impressions unfavorable to Government and possibly productive of disagreeable effects.

I have therefore thought it best to give you this intimation in a private and friendly letter, that by circumspection malice itself may be disarmed. With compliments of the Season and great esteem and regard I am &c.[16]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Tuesday [January 4,[17] 1791.]

The P. begs to see Mr. Jefferson before he proceeds further in the Proclamation.[18] From a more attentive examination of some Papers, in his possession, he finds that it is in his power to ascertain the course and distance from the Court House in Alexandria to the upper and lower end of the Canal at the little Falls with as much accuracy as can be known from *Common* Surveying if not to mathematical truth.

If Mr. Jefferson is not engaged with other matters the President will be at home at nine Oclock.

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[16] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Arthur J. Mitten, of Goodland, Ind.

On January 3 Washington sent a brief message to the Senate and House of Representatives forwarding an exemplified copy of New Jersey's act vesting in the United States the jurisdiction of land at Sandy Hook on which a lighthouse and other buildings are erected. This message is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. It is noted in the *Annals of Congress*, but the text is there omitted.

[17] This date could also be Jan. 24, 1791, *post*.

[18] See Proclamation, Jan. 24, 1791, *post*.

On January 7 Lear wrote to John Field, of Philadelphia: "The President of the United States having observed in the papers this morning that a number of respectable citizens have engaged in a benevolent plan for the relief of such persons as the inclemency of the season and other circumstances had reduced to great distress, he has directed me to transmit ten pounds to you as the Treasurer, to be applied in such a manner as may best answer the benevolent purpose for which it is intended. I have the honor etc. P. S. It has often happened that donations of this kind from the President have been published in the News-Papers. You will therefore excuse my observing that this circumstance is not agreeable to the President." Lear's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To WILLIAM WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, January 8, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 7th of November, and I beg you will be assured that I have a proper sense of your polite invitation to reside with you while in Charleston, if I should pay a visit to the southern States in the ensuing year.

It is my intention to visit the southern States next spring; provided the new Congress should not meet immediately on the rising of the present, which will be on the 3rd. of March. If it should not be in my power to leave this place by the middle of that month, I must give up my tour for this season as setting out at a later period would bring me into the southern States in the warm and sickly months, a circumstance which I would wish by all means to avoid. But, Sir, you will permit me to decline the acceptance of your polite invitation; for I cannot comply with it without involving myself in an inconsistency; as I have determined to pursue the same plan in my southern as I did in my eastern visit, which was, not to incommode any private family by taking up my quarters with them during my journey. I am persuaded you will readily see the necessity of this resolution, both as it respects myself and others. It leaves me unembarrassed by engagements, and by a uniform adherence to it I shall avoid giving umbrage to any, by declining all such invitations.

On January 8 Lear wrote to Daniel Grant, at the request of Mrs. Washington, thanking him for a present of a pair of canvas-back ducks and excellent mutton. Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On this same day (January 8) Lear also wrote to the Attorney General, by command of the President, for a report on a letter from Mr. Steele of North Carolina, and sundry papers respecting a woolen manufactory in the State of Virginia. Randolph's opinion was requested "as to the *part* which the President should *take* in this *business,* and the answer which it would be most expedient for him to give the Governor of Virginia." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

The journey in the manner I shall make it would be too much for Mrs. Washington. She will not therefore accompany me, but joins in compliments to Mrs. Washington and yourself. With very great esteem etc.[19]

To GOVERNOR BEVERLEY RANDOLPH

Philadelphia, January 13, 1791.

Sir: The various and important business which required my particular attention in the beginning of the present session of Congress will, I presume, sufficiently apologize to your Excellency for this late acknowledgment of your letter of November last.

I have attentively considered the request which your Excellency has made, by desire of the Legislature, that I would again open the business of establishing a Woollen manufactory in Virginia; and it is with infinite regret that I must decline any further agency in it, at least so far as relates to carrying on a correspondence with the person in Great Britain who has proposed to establish the Manufactory. I am persuaded, that your Excellency and the Legislature will see upon reflection, the impropriety of my appearing in this business while I remain in my present situation; for I am told that it is felony to export the Machines which it is probable the Artist contemplates to bring with him, and it certainly would not carry an aspect very favorable to the dignity of the United States for the President in a clandestine manner to entice the subjects of another Nation to violate its Laws.

I have communicated the subject of your Excellency's letter to the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General, who are both of the same sentiment which I have expressed, and for the reason mentioned.

[19] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

I am, however, happy that my agency is not *absolutely necessary* to the completion of this object; for the project has been announced to Virginia and the original letter from the Artist has been transmitted to your Excellency. This communicates every thing on the subject of which I am possessed, and leaves it with the State of Virginia to do whatever may be thought best in the affair.

Impressed as I am with the utility of such an establishment, I shall ever be ready to give it every aid that I can with propriety; and I am certain that your Excellency and the Legislature will impute my conduct on this occasion to its true motive. With due consideration, I have the honor &c.[20]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

United States, January 14, 1791.

Sir: On as full a consideration of the last speech made to me by Cornplanter, Half Town, and the Great-tree, Chiefs of the Seneka Nation, as my comprehension of their meaning enables me to give, I am led to the following conclusions, which, if there is any propriety in discussing their request, or yielding the land asked for, I wish you to consider as the basis of the communications to be made to these people.

In the first place, it appears to me that Cornplanter and the other chiefs, now in the City of Philadelphia, do not constitute a representation of their Nation. And to undo, or perhaps even to enter on the revision of treaties which have been deliberately and formally concluded, but under circumstances of equal deliberation and form, would be to open a door to certain inconvenience, and probable difficulty, by encouraging appli-

[20] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

cations which the Indians would not fail to make to the United States.

That it is a matter which requires mature consideration, how far *any* assurances regarding the restoration of lands, which have been ceded by treaty to the United States can be made, without the participation of the Senate, and that *no* assurance should be given which may involve a dispute with any individual State, respecting its claim to the land applied for.

That they be informed that no Agent for Indian Affairs will be authorized to dispose of their lands.

Not comprehending the precise meaning of the Clause respecting Children, I do not remark upon it.

In reply to the last clause of their speech, I have to observe, that such expense cannot be incurred. What is made will be for objects the most beneficial. The enclosed letter from Colonel Pickering contains some good ideas of improvement, and, if necessary, may be useful in framing the answer to the Cornplanter, and the other Indians who are with him. I am etc.[21]

To EDWARD RUTLEDGE

Philadelphia, January 16, 1791.

My Dear Sir: I can but love and thank you, and I do it sincerely, for your polite and friendly letter of the 11th. of November, which came to my hands the day before yesterday *only*. The sentiments contained in it are such as have uniformly flowed from your pen, and they are not less flattering than pleasing to me.

The present Congress can sit no longer than the 4th of March, and should it not be found expedient to convene the new one

[21] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. A draft, in the writing of William Jackson, is also in the *Washington Papers*. It differs from the "Letter Book" copy in capitalization and punctuation only.

immediately upon the rising of it; and should not the old one, by acts of the present session, cut out work for the Executive, which may render my absence from the seat of government (soon after the adjournment) incompatible with my public duties; I shall most assuredly indulge myself in a tour thro' the southern States in the Spring. But it will readily be perceived that this event must depend upon the time I shall be able to *commence* the journey, for I do not hesitate to acknowledge, that I am not inclined to be in the southernmost States after the month of May; and my journey must, on many accounts be made slow and easy.

It was among my first determinations when I entered upon the duties of my present station to visit every part of the United States in the course of my administration of the government, provided my health and other circumstances would admit of it; and this determination was accompanied with another viz. not, by making my head quarters in private families, to become troublesome to them in any of these tours. The first I have accomplished in part only, without departing in a single instance from the second although pressed to it by the most civil and cordial invitations. After having made this communication you will readily perceive, my dear Sir, that it is not in my power (however it might comport with my inclinations) to change my plan without exposing myself to the charge of inconsistency, if not something more exceptionable: especially too as it is not more than ten days since I declined a very kind and friendly invitation from my namesake and kinsman Colonel W. Washington of your State, to lodge at his house when I should visit Charleston. With affectionate esteem &c.[22]

[22] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE

United States, January 19, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I lay before you a representation of the Charge des Affaires of France, made by order of his Court, on the Acts of Congress of the 20th of July 1789, and 1790 imposing an extra tonnage on foreign Vessels, not excepting those of that Country; together with the Report of the Secretary of State thereon:[23] And I recommend the same to your consideration, that I may be enabled to give it such Answer as may best comport with the justice and the interests of the United States.[24]

To THE CORNPLANTER, HALF-TOWN, AND THE GREAT TREE, CHIEFS OF THE SENECA NATION

Philadelphia, January 19, 1791.

Brothers! I have maturely considered your second written speech.

You say your nation complain that at the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, you were compelled to give up too much of your lands. That you confess your nation is bound by what was there done, and acknowledging the power of the United States, that you have now appealed to ourselves against that treaty, as made while we were angry against you, and that the said treaty was therefore unreasonable and unjust.

But while you complain of the treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1784, you seem entirely to forget that you yourselves, the Cornplanter, Half-Town and Great-Tree, with others of your nation, confirmed by the Treaty of Fort Harmar upon the

[23] These accompanying documents are printed, with the text of this message, in the *Executive Journal* and also in Richardson's *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*.

[24] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Muskingum, so late as the 9th. of January 1789, the boundaries marked at the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, and that in consequence thereof you then received goods to a considerable amount.

Although it is my sincere desire in looking forward to endeavour to promote your happiness by all just and humane arrangements; yet I cannot disannull treaties formed by the United States before my administration, especially as the boundaries mentioned therein have been twice confirmed by yourselves.

The lines fixed at Fort Stanwix and Fort Harmar, must therefore remain established.

But Half Town and others who reside upon the land you desire may be relinquished, have not been disturbed in their possession, and I should hope while they continue to demean themselves peaceably, and to manifest their friendly dispositions towards the people of the United States, that they will be suffered to remain where they are.

The Agent who will be appointed by the United States will be your friend and protector. He will not be suffered to defraud you, or to assist in defrauding you of your lands, or of any other thing, as all his proceedings must be reported in writing, so as to be submitted to the President of the United States.

You mention you design of going to the Miami Indians, to endeavour to purswade them to peace. By this humane measure you will render those mistaken people a great service, and probably prevent their being swept from off the face of the earth. The United States require only that those people should demean themselves peaceably. But they may be assured that the United States are able, and will most certainly punish them severely for all their robberies and murders.

You may, when you return from this city to your own Country, mention to your Nation my desire to promote their pros-

perity by teaching the use of domestic animals, and the manner that the white people plough and raise so much corn. And if upon consideration it would be agreeable to the Nation at large to learn these arts, I will find some means of teaching them at such places within their Country as shall be agreed upon.

I have nothing more to add, but to refer you to my former speech, and to repeat my wishes for the happiness of the Seneka Nation.[25]

To TIMOTHY PICKERING

Philadelphia, January 20, 1791.

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letters of the 8th and 15th of this month. I feel myself much obliged by the trouble you have taken, in the former, to detail your ideas with respect to introducing the art of Husbandry and civilization among the Indians. I confess, that your plan, or something like it, strikes me as the most probable means of effecting this desirable end, and I am fully of opinion with you, that the mode of Education which has hitherto been pursued with respect to those young Indians who have been sent to our Colleges, is not such as can be productive of any good to their nations; reason might have shewn it, and experience clearly proves it to have been the case. It is perhaps productive of evil. Humanity and good policy must make it the wish of every good citizen of the United States, that Husbandry, and consequently civilization should be introduced among the Indians. So strongly am I impressed with the beneficial effects which our Country would receive from such a thing, that I shall always take a singular pleasure in promoting, as far as may be in my power, every measure which may tend to ensure it.

I should have been very glad, if it had comported with your interest and inclination to superintend the Northern Indians,

[25] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

as I am persuaded that nothing would have been wanting on your part to attach them to the United States, and to cultivate that spirit for civilization which now begins to dawn among them. Whoever undertakes this business must be actuated by more enlarged views than his individual interest, or he can never accomplish the wished for end. With very great regard &c.[26]

COMMISSION APPOINTING COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PERMANENT SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

City of Philadelphia, January 22, 1791.

To all who shall see these Presents Greeting: KNOW YE, That reposing special Trust and Confidence in the Integrity, Skill, and Diligence of *Thomas Johnson* and *Daniel Carroll*[27] of Maryland, and *David Stuart,* of Virginia, I do, in Pursuance of the Powers vested in me by the Act intitled "An Act for establishing the Temporary and Permanent Seat of the Government of the United States", hereby appoint them the said Thomas Johnson, Daniel Carroll and David Stuart, Commissioners for surveying the District of Territory[28] accepted by the said Act for the permanent Seat of the Government of the United States, and for performing such other Offices as by Law are directed, with full Authority to them, or any two of them to proceed therein according to Law; and to have and to hold the said Office, with all the Powers, Privileges, and Authorities to the same of Right appertaining, each of them during the Pleasure of the President of the United States, for the Time being.[26]

[26] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[27] Of Rock Creek. It is stated by Jefferson in his letter to Thomas Johnson, Jan. 29, 1791, that Carroll, at first, declined to serve as "doubts may arise whether he can act as one of the Commissioners . . . while a Member of Congress."

[28] District of Columbia.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 24, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives: In execution of the powers with which Congress were pleased to invest me by their Act intitled "An Act for establishing the temporary and permanent seat of the Government of the United States" and on mature consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of the several positions, within the limits prescribed by the said Act, I have, by Proclamation, bearing date this day, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, directed Commissioners, appointed in pursuance of the Act, to survey and limit a part of the territory of ten miles square, on both sides the river Potomack, so as to comprehend George Town in Maryland, and to extend to the Eastern branch. I have not by this first Act given to the said territory the whole extent of which it is susceptible in the direction of the River; because I thought it important that Congress should have an opportunity of considering whether by an amendatory law, they would authorize the location of the residue at the lower end of the present, so as to comprehend the Eastern branch itself, and some of the Country on its lower side in the State of Maryland, and the town of Alexandria in Virginia. If, however, they are of opinion that the federal territory should be bounded by the water edge of the Eastern-branch, the location of the residue will be to be made at the upper end of what is now directed. I have thought best to await a survey of the territory before it is decided on what particular spot on the North Eastern side of the River[29] the public buildings shall be erected.[30]

[29] Potomac.

[30] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

PROCLAMATION

Philadelphia, January 24, 1791.

Whereas the General assembly of the state of Maryland by an act passed on the 23d. day of December in the year 1788 intitled "an act to cede to Congress a district of 10 miles square in this state for the seat of the government of the U. S." did enact that the representatives of the said state in the house of representatives of the Congress of the U. S. appointed to assemble at New York on the 1st. Wednesday of March then next ensuing, should be; and they were thereby authorised and required on the behalf of the sd state to cede to the Congress of the U. S. any district in the said state not exceeding ten miles square which the Congress might fix upon and accept for the seat of government of the U. S.

And the general assembly of the commonwealth of Virginia by an act passed on the 3d day of December 1789 and intitled "an Act for the cession of ten miles square, or any lesser quantity of territory within this state, to the U. S. in Congress assembled, for the permanent seat of the General government" did enact that a tract of country not exceeding ten miles square, or any lesser quantity, to be located within the limits of the sd state and in any part thereof as Congress might by law direct, should be, and the same was thereby for ever ceded and relinquished to the Congress and government of the U. S. in full and absolute right, and exclusive jurisdiction as well of soil, as of persons residing or to reside thereon, pursuant to the tenor and effect of the 8th section of the first article of the constitution of government of the U. S.

And the Congress of the U. S. by their act passed the 16th day of July 1790 and intitled "an act for establishing the temporary and permanent seat of the government of the U. S."

authorised the President of the U. S. to appoint three commissioners to survey, under his direction, and by proper metes and bounds to limit a district of territory, not exceeding ten miles square, on the river Potomac, at some place between the mouths of the Eastern branch, and Connogochegue, which district so to be located and limited, was accepted by the said act of Congress as the district for the permanent seat of the government of the U. S.

Now therefore in pursuance of the powers to me confided, and after duly examining and weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the several situations within the limits aforesd, I do hereby declare and make known that the location of one part of the sd district of ten miles square shall be found by running four lines of experiment in the following manner, that is to say, running from the Court house of Alexandria in Virginia due South West half a mile, and thence a due South East course till it shall strike Hunting creek to fix the Beginning of the sd four lines of experiment.

Then beginning the first of the sd four lines of experiment at the point on Hunting creek where the sd South East course shall have struck the same, and running the sd first line due North West ten miles: thence the second line into Maryland due North East ten miles: thence the third line due South East ten miles: and thence the fourth line due South West ten miles to the beginning on Hunting creek.

And the sd four lines of experiment being so run, I do hereby declare and make known that all that part within the sd four lines of experiment which shall be within the state of Maryland and above the Eastern branch, and all that part within the same four lines of experiment which shall be within the commonwealth of Virginia and above a line to be run from the point of land forming the upper cape of the mouth

of the Eastern branch due South West, and no more, is now fixed upon and directed to be surveyed defined, limited and located for a part of the sd district accepted by the sd act of Congress for the permanent seat of the government of the U. S. (Hereby expressly reserving the direction of the survey and location of the remaining part of the said district to be made hereafter contiguous to such part or parts of the present location as is, or shall be agreeable to law.)

And I do accordingly direct the sd Commissioners, appointed agreeably to the tenor of the sd act to proceed forthwith to run the sd lines of experiment, and the same being run, to survey, and by proper metes and bounds to define and limit the part within the same which is herein before directed for immediate location and acceptance, and thereof to make due report to me under their hands and seals.[81]

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

United States, January 24, 1791.

Gentlemen: I enclose you several proclamations expressing the lines which are to bound the District of ten miles square for the permanent Seat of the general government, which I wish you to have made public with all expedition. And in the most general and extensive manner that you can to prevent any kind of speculation. Let them be published in the News-Papers, put up in public places and otherwise so disposed as to answer my object as fully as possible. The Proclamations are this moment struck off and the Mail is about to be closed, which prevents

[81] From the draft in the writing of Thomas Jefferson in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* (vol. VI, pt. 2, fol. 115) in the Library of Congress. This group of manuscripts was extracted from the *Washington Papers,* so labeled and bound up in 10 volumes by the Department of State.

me from adding more at this time; but I shall write you more fully upon this subject in a few days. I am etc.[32]

To THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRANCE

Philadelphia, January 27, 1791.

Sir: I received with particular satisfaction, and imparted to Congress the communication made by the Presidents letter of the 20th of June last in the name of the National Assembly of France. So peculiar and so signal an expression of the esteem of that respectable body for a citizen of the United States, whose eminent and patriotic services are indelibly engraved on the minds of his countrymen, cannot fail to be appreciated by them as it ought to be. On my part I assure you, Sir, that I am sensible of all its value.

The circumstances, which, under the patronage of a monarch who has proved himself to be the friend of the people over whom he reigns, have promised the blessings of liberty to the French Nation, could not have been uninteresting to the free Citizens of the United States; especially when they recollected the dispositions, which were manifested by the individuals as well as by the Government of that Nation towards their still recent exertions, in support of their own rights.

It is with real pleasure, Sir, that I embrace the opportunity now afforded me, of testifying through you to the National Assembly, the sincere, cordial and earnest wish, I entertain, that their labours may speedily issue in the firm establishment of a Constitution, which, by wisely conciliating the indispensable principles of public order with the enjoyment and exercise of the essential rights of man, shall perpetuate the freedom and happiness of the People of France.

[32] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

The impressions naturally produced by similarity of political sentiment are justly to be regarded as causes of national sympathy; calculated to confirm the amicable ties which may otherwise subsist between nations. This reflection, independent of its more particular reference, must dispose every benevolent mind to unite in the wish, that a general diffusion of true principles of liberty, assimilating as well as ameliorating the condition of Mankind and fostering the maxims of an ingenuous and virtuous policy, may tend to strengthen the fraternity of the human race, to assuage the jealousies and animosities of its various subdivisions, and to convince them more and more, that their true interest and felicity will best be promoted by mutual good will and universal harmony.

The friendship to which the President alludes in the close of his letter has caused me to perceive with particular pleasure, that ONE who had endeared himself to this Country by an ardent zeal, and by useful efforts in the cause of liberty, has by the same titles acquired the confidence and affection of his own. May it ever be his chief aim to continue to be beloved as one of her most virtuous and most faithful Citizens!

I beg you to accept my acknowledgments for the sentiments in the same letter which relate more particularly to myself, and at the same time to be assured of the most perfect consideration, on my part.[33]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Tuesday Evening, February 1, 1791.

My dear Sir: Nothing in the enclosed letter superceding the necessity of Mr. Ellicots[34] proceeding to the work in hand, I

[33] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[34] Andrew Ellicott.

would thank you, for requesting him, to set out on thursday; or as soon after as he can make it convenient: also for preparing such instructions as you may conceive it necessary for me to give him for ascertaining the points we wish to know; *first,* for the *general* view of things, and *next* for the more accurate and final decision. Yrs. etc.[35]

*To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

Philadelphia, February 3, 1791.

Gentlemen: In asking your aid in the following case permit me at the same time to ask the most perfect secrecy.

The federal territory being located, the competition for the location of the town now rests between the mouth of the Eastern branch, and the lands on the river, below and adjacent to Georgetown. In favour of the former, Nature has furnished powerful advantages. In favour of the latter is it's vicinity to Georgetown, which puts it in the way of deriving aids from it in the beginning, and of communicating in return an increased value to the property of that town. These advantages have been so poised in my mind as to give it different tendencies at different times. There are lands which stand yet in the way of the latter location and which, if they could be obtained, for the purposes of the town, would remove a considerable obstacle to it, and go near indeed to decide what has been so long on the balance with me.

[35] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

The President often expressed a wish to see the bills that were occasionally printed by order of the Senate and House in the course of their consideration, and Lear wrote to the Secretary of the Senate and to the Clerk of the House on February 3, asking to have two copies of every such bill, when printed, sent to the President as he wished "to see bills in this stage." From their replies it appeared that it was merely through inadvertence that the President had not received them. These letters are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

These are, first, the lands on the S West side of a line to be run from where the Road crosses Goose creek (in going from Georgetown to the Eastern branch) to the corner of Charles Beatty's lot; including by the plat of Beatty and Orme the house of William Pearce; or, if the whole of this parcel cannot be obtained then secondly so much as would lie within a line to be run from the said ford, or thereabouts, to the middle of the line of cession which extends from the corner of Beatty's lot, as above mentioned to its termination on Goose Creek. Thirdly, the lands of Mr. Carrol[36] between Goose Creek, the river and Mr. Young[37] to the same ford of the Creek.

The object of this letter is to ask you to endeavor to purchase these grounds of the owners for the public, particularly the 2d. parcel, but as if for yourselves, and to conduct your propositions so as to excite no suspicion that they are on behalf of the public.

The circumstances of the funds appropriated by the States of Virginia and Maryland, will require that a twelve month's credit be stipulated, in order that they may cover you from any inconvenience which might attend your personal undertakings. As the price at which the lands can be obtained would have it's weight also with me, I would wish that in making your bargains you should reserve to yourselves a fortnight's time to consider, at the end of which you should be free to be off or on, but the seller not so, This will admit your writing to me and receiving my definitive answer.

A clear purchase is so preferable to every other arrangement, that I should scarcely think any other worthy attention.

I am obliged to add that all the dispatch is requisite which can consist with the success of your operations, and that I shall be glad to hear by post of your progress, and prospect of the accomplishment of this business, in whole or part. I am &c.

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[36] Daniel Carroll, of "Duddington."
[37] Notley Young.

P. S. That my description of the lands required in the foregoing letter may be more clearly understood, and my wishes further explained, I enclose you a rough (and very rough indeed it is) copy of the ceded tracts, roads, &ca., of Messrs. Beatty and Orme's Survey; adding thereto lines of augmentation. To obtain the lands included within the lines A B & C is my first wish, and next to that the lands within the lines D E & F; but those within the lines D E, and along the Creek to C, are indispensably necessary: and being not over 250 Acres might, I suppose, be easily obtained.

It ought to be the first essay; and I wish to know as soon as possible the result of it, before any others are directly attempted.[38]

To THOMAS BEALL

Philadelphia, February 3, 1791.

Sir: In consequence of your letter of the 26th of January to Daniel Carroll Esquire[39] informing him that the order of the President of the United States upon you, as Mayor of George Town, would be paid on sight, I have to request that you will answer the demands of Andrew Ellicot Esquire, within the sum of fifty guineas, as he may have occasion to make them without further advice from your etc.[40]

*To ANGELICA SCHUYLER CHURCH

Philadelphia, February 6, 1791.

Madam: As the letter, which you were pleased to address to me on the 27th. of November,[41] relates to an event of public

[38] A press copy in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[39] Of Rock Creek, D. C.

[40] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[41] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

import, yet to be determined, and on which the decision may be governed by circumstances not yet considered, I can only do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of it, and to express the respectful consideration with which I am etc. [H.L.]

*To JOHN ARMSTRONG

Philadelphia, February 6, 1791.

Dear General: Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 29th. of December, and offering you my best thanks for the interest it expresses in my behalf, I beg you to be persuaded that neither my late silence nor my present brevity are in any degree the consequence of diminished regard. Your friendship receives from me the same grateful and affectionate return which I have ever made to it; but the multiplied duties of my public Station allow me little or no leizure for the cultivation of private regards; and the necessity of a prior attention to those duties cannot fail, my dear Sir, to excuse me to you.

Having in all cases of application for appointment to office prescribed as an invariable rule to myself, the right of remaining to the last moment free and unengaged, I did not find myself at liberty, even in your regard, to deviate from that rule, which you will be so good as to assign as the reason why I did not answer your letter of last Spring.

I have the best disposition to serve the person[42] whom you then recommended, and in what may comport with circumstances and public propriety, I shall be happy to do so. At present I know not what offices may be created, and applicants multiply with every new office and some of them come forward under such fair pretensions and pressing wants that a prefer-

[42]Armstrong's youngest son.

ence is difficult and painful in the extream. In a word, to a man who has no ends to serve, nor friends to provide for, nominations to office is the most irksome part of the Executive trust.

The concern which you take in my health enhances the pleasure I have in assuring you that it is now perfectly re-established. It will add greatly to my satisfaction to hear that yours is also improved. With affectionate regard and esteem I am etc.[43]

To THOMAS MARSHALL

Philadelphia, February 6, 1791.

Sir: In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 11th. of September I must beg you to accept my thanks for the pleasing communication it contains of the good disposition of the people of Kentucky towards the government of the United States.

I never doubted that the operations of this government if not perverted by prejudice or evil designs, would inspire the Citizens of America with such confidence in it as effectually to do away those apprehensions, which, under the former confederation our best men entertained of divisions among ourselves or allurements from other nations; I am therefore happy to find that such a disposition prevails in your part of the Country, as to remove any idea of that evil which a few years ago you so much dreaded.

I shall receive with great satisfaction and due thanks any information of a public or private nature, that you may think proper to communicate to me from your district. These communications will be the more grateful as we seldom hear the particulars of any transactions from that quarter, and the

[43] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Miss Grace Lee Nute, curator, Minnesota Historical Society.

intelligence often comes through such channels, as in a great measure to prevent confidence from being placed in it. With very great esteem, &c.[44]

To BATTAILE MUSE

Philadelphia, February 6, 1791.

Sir: It has been intimated to me that Mr. Windsor, a Tenant of mine, wishes to relinguish the lease, which he retains for a part of my land in the county of Frederick; and as my Sister Lewis[45] appears anxious to get it for the purpose of concentrating her property adjoining, and agrees to take it upon the same terms by which it is held at present; This will explain to you my approbation of her proposal, provided, Mr. Windsor is still disposed to surrender his occupancy. I am etc.[2]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 9, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I have received from the Governor of Vermont authentic document expressing the consent of the Legislatures of New York and of the Territory of Vermont, that the said territory shall be admitted to be a distinct member of our union; and a Memorial of Nathaniel Chipman and Lewis R. Morris Commissioners from the said Territory, praying the consent of Congress to that admission by the name and stile of the State of Vermont, copies

[44] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[45] Elizabeth ("Betty") Lewis.

On February 6 Washington wrote to Sir Edward Newenham an acknowledgment of his letters: "The multiplied public duties which at this time engage my attention, leaving me little or no leisure for the cultivation of private correspondence; I am compelled often to observe a brevity towards my friends, which I trust their goodness will readily pardon. In the number of those indulgent friends I hope Sir Edward Newenham will, on the present occasion, allow me to class him." This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

of which I now lay before Congress, with whom the constitution has rested the object of these proceedings.[46]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

February 9, 1791.

The messages to the two Houses,[47] as altered, are quite agreeable to GW.

Whether, as it is equally known to both houses, that we have no person in a public character at the Ct. of London it is best that the word "informal" should remain in the message to the Ho. of Representatives, or not, Mr. J. may decide by the fair copy he shall send to GW[48]

To CATHERINE MACAULAY GRAHAM

Philadelphia, February 10, 1791.

Madam: At the same time that I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June last, with which I have been honored, I must beg you to accept my best thanks for your treatise on education which accompanied it.

The anxiety which you express for the welfare of this country demands a proper acknowledgement, and tho' political sentiments, which are contained in your letter, merit a more particular reply than the multifarious and important business in which I am constantly engaged, especially whilst Congress are

[46] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Morris and Chipman's audience with the President was the subject of a brief note from Lear to them (February 7), stating that "if it will be convenient for you to make your communication to him at two o'clock instead of twelve, as was proposed on Saturday, it would be more agreeable to him [the President]; as he has not been on horseback for several days, and finding it necessary to his health to ride frequently he intends to take a longer ride to-day than usual, and will not probably be in by twelve o'clock." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[47] See Washington's messages to the Senate and House of Representatives, Feb. 14, 1791, and to the Senate, Feb. 14, 1791, *post*.

[48] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

in session will permit me to make. I must, therefore, Madam, rely upon your goodness to receive this short letter as an acknowledgement of your polite attention and beg you to be assured that my not entering at this time more fully into the subject of your favor does not proceed from a want of that consideration, with which I have the honor etc.[49]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 14, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: Soon after I was called to the Administration of the Government, I found it important to come to an understanding with the Court of London, on several points interesting to the United States, and particularly to know whether they were disposed to enter into Arrangements, by mutual consent, which might fix the commerce between the two Nations on principles of reciprocal advantage. For this purpose I authorized informal conferences with their Ministers; and from these I do not infer any disposition, on their part, to enter into any arrangements merely commercial. I have thought it proper to give you this Information, as it might at some time have influence on matters under your consideration.[50]

To THE SENATE

[February 14, 1791.]

Gentlemen of the Senate: Conceiving that in the possible event of a refusal of Justice on the part of Great Britain, we should stand less committed should it be made to a private

[49] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[50] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.* Jefferson's draft of this message is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

rather than a public Person, I employed Mr. Gouverneur Morris, who was on the spot, and without giving him any definite Character, to enter informally into the Conferences before mentioned. For your more particular information, I lay before you the Instruction I gave him, and those parts of his Communications wherein the British Ministers appear either in conversation or by letter. These are, two Letters from the Duke of Leeds to Mr. Morris, and three Letters of Mr. Morris giving an account of two conferences with the Duke of Leeds, and one with him and Mr. Pitt. The sum of these is, that they declare without scruple they do not mean to fulfil what remains of the Treaty of Peace to be fulfilled on their part (by which we are to understand the delivery of the Posts and payment for property carried off) 'till performance on our part, and compensation where the delay has rendered the performance now impracticable: that on the subject of a Treaty of Commerce they avoided direct answers, so as to satisfy Mr. Morris they did not mean to enter into one unless it could be extended to a Treaty of Alliance offensive and defensive, or unless in the event of a rupture with Spain.

As to their sending a Minister here, they made excuses in the first conference, seem disposed to it in the second, and in the last express an intention of so doing.

Their views being thus sufficiently ascertained, I have directed Mr. Morris to discontinue his Communications with them.[51]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Philadelphia, February 16, 1791.

Sir: "An act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States" is now before me for consideration.

[51] From the 'Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.* Jefferson's draft of this message is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

The Constitutionality of it is objected to. It therefore becomes more particularly my duty to examine the ground on which the objection is built. As a mean of investigation I have called upon the Attorney General of the United States, in whose line it seemed more particularly to be, for his official examination and opinion. His report is, that the Constitution does not warrant the Act. I then applied to the Secretary of State for his sentiments on the subject.[52] These coincide with the Atty. General's; and the reasons for their opinions having been submitted in writing, I now require, in like manner, yours, on the validity and propriety of the above recited Act:[53] and that you may know the points on which the Secretary of State and the Attorney General dispute the constitutionality of the Act; and that I may be fully possessed of the argument *for* and *against* the measure, before I express any opinion of my own, I give you an opportunity of examining and answering the objections contained in the enclosed papers. I require the return of them, when your own sentiments are handed me (which I wish may be as soon as is convenient;) and further, that no copies of them be taken, as it is for my own satisfaction they have been called for.[54]

To JOHN GREENWOOD

Philadelphia, February 16, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 6th and the box which accompanied it came safe to hand. The contents of the latter were perfectly agreeable to me, and will, I am persuaded, answer the end proposed very well.

[52] A press copy of Jefferson's opinion (February 15) is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[53] A copy of Hamilton's opinion follows this letter in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The draft is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. (See Washington's letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, Feb. 23, 1791, *post.*)

[54] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Enclosed I send you Twenty dollars in payment for them and the repairs of the old ones,[55] and, etc.

P. S. That I may be certain that this letter and its contents has got safe to hand, be so good as to say so in a line to G. W.[56]

To JOHN HOOMES[57]

Philadelphia, February 17, 1791.

Sir: The state of the roads has been such as to have occasioned some delay in the passage of your letter to me, and some matters of importance which have pressed upon me since the receipt of it has retarded my acknowledgement thereof until now.

It was not because I had any doubt of the collection for the services of Royal Gift, for I allow no credit; nor that I inclined to receive a specific sum for them, but to place it in the power of the person, to whom, I might confide him to affix his own terms, and to avoid at the same time all grounds of dispute in a settlement thereafter.

If you incline to take him in this way, no time is to be lost in deciding *at once* the sum you will allow for the use of him from the first day of April until the first day of August, because it is the anxious wish of the people of this and the States northward of it to get him nearer to them, but not mine to have him far removed from Mount Vernon, or in the possession of any on whose care I cannot place entire confidence; and because if your letter does not reach this place by the 5 of next month it may come too late for your purpose if you wish to have him.

It is proper you should know that this Jack, (Royal Gift) though *sure,* is *slow* in covering, and that it has been found

[55] Teeth, or teeth plates.

[56] The text is from Koch's *History of Dental Surgery* (Ft. Wayne: 1910), vol. 3, p. 26.

[57] Of Bowling Green, Va.

necessary to have a Jennet or two always at hand during the season, by way stimulus, when he is in those slothful humours.

The "Bill to establish the Post Office and Post roads within the United States" has not yet passed, nor do I know what form it may finally take.

It is highly probable, however, that the Assistants (whether One or more) will be left to the appointment of the Post Master General. I am etc.[58]

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

Philadelphia, February 17, 1791.

Gentlemen: I have received your favors of the 9th. and 11th. instant, and shall be glad if the purchase from [59] should be concluded before you receive that at [59] as your [59] But as you mention that, should he ask as far as £20 or 25£ you will await further instructions before you accept such an offer: I have thought it better, in order to prevent delays, to inform you, that I could wish his lands to be purchased even at those prices, rather than not obtain them.

The Maryland Assembly has authorized a certain number of acres to be taken without the consent of the owners or making compensation as therein provided. This will be principally useful as to the old lotts of Hamburg.[60] However, by purchasing up as lots, or as many as we can, we shall be free to take, on

[58] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[59] Left blank in the "Letter Book," which copy was evidently made from the press copy of the original letter sent, which was in Thomas Jefferson's writing and illegible in part.

[60] Hamburg, sometimes called "Funkstown," was to the east of Rock Creek, and near the mouth of the Tiber. It was on the bank of the Potomac, bounded, roughly, by 19th and 23d Streets NW. and G Street on the north, a goodly portion of it being in what is now Potomac Park.

the terms of the act, so much of any other lands in our way, and consequently those whose proprietors refuse all arrangment. I will therefore beg the favour of you to take measures immediately for buying up all the lots you can in Hamburg, on the lowest terms you can, not exceeding the rate of twenty-five pounds the acre.

I leave it to yourselves to dispatch a private agent for this purpose to treat with the proprietors wherever to be found, or to do it by any other means which, in your discretion, shall appear not too expensive, and which may not excite suspicions of their being on behalf of the public. I am etc.[61]

To THE SENATE

United States, February 18, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate: The aspect of Affairs in Europe during the last summer, and especially between Spain and England, gave reason to expect a favourable occasion for pressing to accommodation the unsettled matters between them and us. Mr. Carmichael, our Charge des Affaires at the Court of Madrid, having been long absent from his Country, great changes having taken place in our circumstances and sentiments during that interval, it was thought expedient to send some person in a private character, full acquainted with the present state of things here, to be the bearer of written and confidential instructions to him, and at the same time to possess him in full and frequent conversations, of all those details of facts, and topics of argument which could not be conveyed in Writing, but which would be necessary to enable him to meet the reasonings of that Court with advantage. Colo. David Humphreys

[61] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

was therefore sent for these purposes. An additional motive for this confidential mission arose in the same quarter. The Court of Lisbon had, on several occasions, made the most amicable advances for cultivating friendship and intercourse with the United States. The exchange of a diplomatic character had been informally, but repeatedly suggested on their part. It was our interest to meet this nation in its friendly dispositions, and to concur in the exchange proposed. But my wish was, at the same time, that the Character to be exchanged should be of the lowest and most economical grade. To this it was known that certain rules, of long standing at that Court, would produce obstacles. Colo. Humphreys was charged with dispatches to the Prime Minister of Portugal, and with instructions to endeavour to arrange this to our views. It happened, however, that, previous to his arrival at Lisbon, the Queen had appointed a Minister *Resident* to the United States. This embarrassment seems to have rendered the difficulty completely insurmountable. The Minister of that Court, in his conferences with Colo. Humphreys, professing every wish to accommodate, yet expresses his regrets that circumstances do not permit them to concur in the grade of Charge des Affaires; a grade of little privilege or respectability by the rules of their Court, and held in so low estimation with them, that no proper Character would accept it, to go abroad. In a letter to the Secretary of State,[62] he expresses the same sentiments and announces the appointment, on their part, of a Minister *Resident* to the United States, and the pleasure with which the Queen will receive one from us at her Court. A copy of his letter and also of Colo. Humphreys' giving the details of this transaction, will be delivered to you.

[62] A press copy of a translation of De Pinto's letter of Nov. 30, 1790, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On consideration of all circumstances, I have determined to accede to the desire of the Court of Lisbon, in the article of Grade. I am aware that the consequences will not end here, and that this is not the only instance in which a like change may be pressed. But should it be necessary to yield elsewhere too, I shall think it a less evil, than to disgust a government so friendly, and so interesting to us, as that of Portugal.

I do not mean that the change of grade shall render the Mission more expensive.

I have therefore nominated David Humphreys, Minister Resident from the United States to her most faithful Majesty the Queen of Portugal.[63]

To GEORGE CLENDINEN

Philadelphia, February 21, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 1st. of December, and thank you as well for the readiness with which you have complied with my request to undertake the letting of my lands in your neighbourhood, as for the disposition which you express to render your best services in this way.

In my letter to you of the 25 of June last (a duplicate of which was committed to the care of Mr. Moore in August) I could not point out the precise terms upon which I wished to have my lands settled; because I knew that they must depend upon the custom of the Country, and what that was I knew not. I therefore spoke generally upon the subject, and referred you to the papers in Colonel Lewis's hands. But it was not my intention that you should be strictly confined to the terms which were there expressed. They were my own ideas on the matter, unassisted by a knowledge of the custom of the Country, which I

[63] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

knew must always govern in the seating of new lands. I can therefore only repeat the sentiment expressed in my former letter, which was that I wished the lands to be in a train of improvement by being settled, and that I should be relieved from the taxes of them. It was my wish that the term of time for which they might be leased should be as short as could be obtained to answer the purpose of settlement. Perhaps the quality of my lands might be an inducement for shortening the term, as more profit might be derived from them in eight years by the Cultivator than from common land in ten years. This, however, I must not calculate upon; but leave it to your judgment to seat them upon the best terms you can. I would just make one observation, which is that if it is at present dangerous[64] to make settlements in that part of the Country, as it is represented to be, might it not be advisable to delay the attempt to settle until it can be done with more security; when it is highly probable that it may be done more to my advantage. But in this, as in other respects on the subject, you must have better grounds to found an opinion upon than I am possessed of and I trust that your best judgment will be exercised for my interest. With great regard, I am etc.[65]

To THE QUEEN OF PORTUGAL[66]

Philadelphia, February 21, 1791.

Great and good Friend: Desirous to promote a friendly and useful Intercourse between the Subjects of your Majesty and the Citizens of these States, and to give Proofs of our good Will and Consideration towards your Majesty, I have named David Humphreys, one of our distinguished Citizens, Minister resi-

[64] Because of Indians.

[65] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[66] Maria I, who had married her uncle, Pedro III, who died in 1786. Maria, becoming mentally deranged, Portugal was put under the regency of Crown Prince John, who became, in 1793, John VI of Portugal.

dent for the United States of America near your Majesty. He knows the Interest we take, and shall even take, in your Prosperity and Happiness; and I beseech your Majesty to give entire Credence to whatever he shall deliver on our Part, and most of all when he shall assure you of the Sincerity of our Friendship.

I pray God to keep you, Great and good Friend, under his holy Protection.[67]

To THE SENATE

United States, February 22, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I will proceed to take measures for the ransom of our citizens in captivity at Algiers, in conformity with your resolution of advice of the first instant, so soon as the monies necessary shall be appropriated by the legislature, and shall be in readiness.

The recognition of our treaty with the new Emperor of Morocco requires also previous appropriation and provision. The importance of this last to the liberty and property of our citizens induces me to urge it on your earliest attention.[67]

[67] From a press copy in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. The Secretary of State wrote to Luiz Pinto de Sousa Coutinho, the Portuguese Secretary of State, on February 21, as follows:

"I have duly received the Letter of November 30th. which your Excellency did me the honor to write, informing me that her most Faithful Majesty had appointed Mr. Freire her Minister resident with us, and stating the difficulty of meeting us in the exchange of a charge des affaires, the Grade proposed on our part. It is foreseen that a departure from our System in this instance will materially affect our arrangements with other Nations; but the President of the United States has resolved to give her Majesty this Proof of his Desire to concur in whatever may best tend to promote that Harmony and perfect Friendship so interesting to both Countries: He has therefore appointed Colonel Humphreys to be Minister resident for the United States at the Court of her Majesty.

"This Gentleman has long been of the President's own family, and enjoys his particular Confidence. I make no doubt he will so conduct himself as to give perfect satisfaction to her Majesty and yourself, and I therefore recommend him to your friendly Attentions and respect. Mr. Freire will have every title to the same from us, and will assuredly receive it."

A press copy of this letter in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. (See Washington's message to the Senate, Feb. 18, 1791, *ante*.)

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Wednesday noon, February 23, 1791.

Sir: I have this moment received your sentiments with respect to the constitutionality of the Bill, "to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States."

This bill was presented to me by the joint Commee. of Congress at 12 oClock on Monday the 14th. instant. To what precise period, by legal interpretation of the constitution, can the President retain it in his possession, before it becomes a Law by the lapse of ten days? [68]

To REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Philadelphia, February 25, 1791.

Dear Sir: However highly I might be gratified by attending to my private correspondencies, as I used to do, yet so numerous and important are the public duties which my situation calls upon me to discharge, that to do justice to one I must, in some measure, give up the other. In this case it requires not the consideration of a moment to decide.

I presume, therefore, it will hardly be necessary to offer an apology to you for the want of punctuality in acknowledging the receipt of your letters. I should, however, be deficient in civility and gratitude was I not to return my best thanks for the elegantly bound volumes of your history, which you have been so polite as to send to me, and for the ardent prayers for my health and happiness which are expressed in your letters. I

[68] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Hamilton's reply was "that you have ten days exclusive of that on which the Bill was delivered to you, and Sundays. Hence in the present case if it is returned on Friday at any time while Congress are setting, it will be in time. It might be a question, if returned after their adjournment on Friday." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

beg you to be assured that my good wishes attend you, and that I shall always be glad to hear of your prosperity. The forty two sets of your history which you mention to have sent over for the Subscribers have been received, as the within accounts will shew; and you have, enclosed, a bill for [69] Sterling in full of the balance of the accounts, and closes the business. With due regard and esteem I am etc.[70]

*To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

Philadelphia, February 28, 1791.

Gentlemen: If you have concluded nothing yet with Mr. Burn's;[71] nor made him any offer for his land that is obligatory; I pray you to suspend your negotiations with *him* until you hear further from me. With much esteem I am etc.[72]

To EBENEZER HAZARD

February 28, 1791.

By the command of the President of the United States T. Lear has the honor to return to Mr. Hazard the enclosed proposals for printing by subscription a collection of State-Papers, which Mr. Hazard submitted to the President and which have been subscribed by him.

The whole or any part of the money for the President's subscription will be paid by T. Lear whenever Mr. Hazard may chuse to receive it.[73]

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[69] Left blank in the "Letter Book."
[70] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[71] David Burnes.
[72] In *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[73] From the draft in the writing of Lear.

To MARY BRISTON

Philadelphia, February 1791.

Madam: I am very sorry that it is not in my power to comply with the request made in your letter of the 22nd. of October to prevail on the Assembly of Virginia to restore a part of your son's estate that had been confiscated. However desirous I may be to render you a service in this way, yet my public situation totally forbids an application of the nature you mention; and I am persuaded, Madam, that upon reflection, you will be convinced of the impropriety of such a measure, and will be assured that my declining your request does not proceed from the want of an inclination to oblige you. I have the honor etc.[74]

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

Philadelphia, March 2, 1791.

Gentlemen: Majr. L'enfant comes on to make such a survey of the grounds in your vicinity as may aid in fixing the site of

[74] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The following note is also entered in the "Letter Book:"

"Tuesday, March 1, 1791. The President of the United States having thought proper to convene the Senate on the 4th. of March, for the dispatch of public business of an Executive nature, the following Summonses were sent to the President of the Senate, and to each member of that body who were in the City of Philadelphia. A Summons was likewise addressed to every member of the Senate who was absent; but as the business for which they were about to be convened would not probably engage the Senate more than one or two days, it was not thought proper to send them to the States where the absent members resided; the Summonses of this nature were, therefore left in the Senate Chamber, when the others were sent to the residence of each individual in the City of Philadelphia."

A copy of the summons is also entered in the "Letter Book." It reads: "Certain matters touching the public good requiring that the Senate shall be convened on Friday the 4th Instant, you are desired to attend at the Senate Chamber in Philadelphia on that Day, then and there to receive and deliberate on such communications as shall be made on my part."

A separate summons in slightly different wording was sent to the Vice President, as president of the Senate. This also is entered in the "Letter Book."

the federal town and buildings. his present instructions express those alone which are within the Eastern branch, the Potowmac, the Tyber, and the road leading from George town to the ferry on the Eastern branch. he is directed to begin at the lower end and work upwards, *and nothing further* is communicated to him. The purpose of this letter is to desire you will not be yourselves misled by this appearance, nor be diverted from the pursuit of the objects I have recommended to you. I expect that your progress in accomplishing them will be facilitated by the presumption which will arise on seeing this operation begun at the Eastern branch, and that the proprietors nearer Georgetown who have hitherto refused to accommodate, will let themselves down to reasonable terms.

[This communication will explain to you the motive to my request in a letter of the 28th. ulto. I now authorise the renewal of the negotiations with Mr. Burns agreeably to former powers, at such time and in such a manner as, in your judgments is likely to produce the desired effect. I will add however that if the lands described by the enclosed plat, within the red dotted line from A to C thence by the Tiber to D, and along the North line to A can be obtained I shall be satisfied although I had rather go to the line A B.] I have referred Majr. L'enfant to the mayor of George town for necessary aids and expences. Should there be any difficulties on this subject, I would hope your aid in having them surmounted, tho' I have not named you to him or any body else, that no suspicions may be excited of your acting for the public. I am etc.[75]

[75] The draft, in the writing of Jefferson, with the portion in brackets in the writing of Washington, is in the *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On March 3 Washington nominated certain individuals to fill vacancies in the United States Army and for promotions therein. These were confirmed by the Senate March 4 and are printed in the *Executive Journal*, vol. 1.

To THE SENATE

United States, March 4, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate: The act for the admission of the State of Vermont into this Union having fixed on this as the day of its admission, it was thought that this would also be the first day on which any officer of the Union might legally perform any act of authority relating to that State. I therefore required your attendance to receive nominations of the several officers necessary to put the Federal Government into motion in that State.

For this purpose I nominate Nathaniel Chipman to be judge of the district of Vermont; Stephen Jacobs to be attorney for the United States in the district of Vermont; Lewis R. Morris to be marshal of the district of Vermont, and Stephen Keyes to be collector of the port of Allburgh, in the State of Vermont.[76]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sunday, March 6, 1791.

The P. would thank Mr. Jefferson for placing all, or such of the enclosed Papers (after he has perused them) in the hands

[76] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On March 4 Washington sent a message to the Senate in which, in accordance with the act repealing the duties on imported distilled spirits and laying others in their stead, he divided the United States into customs districts and nominated supervisors for same. These lists are printed in the *Executive Journal.*

On this same day (March 4) Washington also sent to the Senate the nominations of Arthur St. Clair to be major general, Samuel Hodgdon to be quartermaster, and John Hurt to be chaplain, in consequence of the new regiment added to the United States Army.

On March 5 Lear wrote to William Goddard and James Angell, publishers of the *Baltimore Advertiser;* and to Samuel Green, publisher of the *Maryland Gazette,* Annapolis, requesting them to insert an advertisement for 6 weeks in their papers. He also wrote to William Deakins, jr., in Georgetown, to have an inclosed advertisement inserted for 6 weeks by "the Printer at George Town," and "the Printer at Frederick Town." The advertisement was to announce that Royal Gift and the Knight of Malta "will stand at Mount-Vernon," etc. It was signed by Anthony Whiting, manager

of the Attorney General as he shall deem necessary for the purpose of drawing the several conveyances of the ceded Lands, or, the form of one.

For the former, it is conceived farther information than the enclosures contain, is wanting. For the latter, the agreement, and perhaps the Plat to which it refers, is all that is necessary; but the plat referred to, does not apply to the subsequent purchases.[77]

*SOUTHERN TOUR ITINERARY[78]

March 10,

If the President of the United States should be able to commence his tour[79] through the Southern States on the 10th of March it will be regulated as follow

MARCH			miles	
Thursday	10th	Chester	14.4	
Friday	11	Head of Elk	32.6	
Saturday	12	Hartford	27.6	
Sunday	13	Baltimore	24.3	
Monday	14	Annapolis.....	28	127.4
Tuesday	15	Halt..2 days		
Wednesday	16			

[77] In *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On March 6 Lear wrote to the Secretary of War respecting the publication of the names of officers appointed to the Army, that it was the President's opinion "that although there is no doubt but the appointments to which you allude, and the object of them, are too generally known; yet as the matter has hitherto been conducted at least with appearances of secrecy on the part of the government, he conceives it would not be proper to *publish* the Appointments. But if lists of them are necessary for the purpose which you mention, it would be best to have such a number of them struck off by a printer as may be wanted, and one enclosed with each Commission." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[78] This document is indorsed by Washington: "Routes and Stages of G: Washington in the yr. 1791. Which he performed at the time, and in the manner therein enumerated; except (on acct. of the extreme badness of the Roads) he went from Wilmington in the Delaware State by way of the eastern Shore and Annapolis instead of Baltimore." However, Washington did not set out from Mount Vernon until April 7.

[79] The President left Philadelphia on his southern tour at 11 a.m., Monday, March 21.

Thursday	17	George town	38	
Friday	18	Mount Vt.	16	54
		Halt..9 days		
Monday	28	Dumfries	20	
Tuesday	29	Frederickg	25	45
		Halt..1 day		
Thursday	31	Head Lynchs	35.4	
APRIL	1	Richmond.....	32	67.4
		Halt..2 days		
Monday	4	Petersburgh	28	
Tuesday	5	Hallifax	75	103
Wednesday	6			
		Halt..1 day		
Friday	8	Tarborough	36	
Saturday	9	New Bern	81	117
Sunday	10			
		Halt..1 day		
Tuesday	12			
Wednesday	13	Wilmingtn.		95
Thursday	14			
		Halt..1 day		
Saturday	16			
Sunday	17	Georgetown		127
Monday	18			
Tuesday	19			
		Halt..1 day		
Thursday	21	Charleston		62
Friday	22			
		Halt..5 days		
Thursday	28			
Friday	29	Savanna		119
Saturday	30			
MAY	1			
		Halt—2 days		

Wednesday	4		
Thursday	5	Augusta	120
Friday	6		
Saturday	7		
		Halt..2 days	
Tuesday	10		
Wednesdy.	11	Columbia	82
Thursday	12		
		Halt..1 day	
Saturday	14	Campden 35	
Sunday	15		
Monday	16	Charlotte 75	
Tuesday	17		
			110
Wednesd	18	Halt..1 day	
Thursd	19	Salisbury 40	
Friday	20	Salem 35	
Saturd	21	Guilford 25	100
		Halt..1 day	
Monday	23	Hilsbo: 45	
Tuesd	24	Harrisburg 40	 97
Wedny	25	Willmsburg 12	
		Halt..1 day	
Friday	27	By Taylrs. ferry .. 10	
Saturd	28	to Petersburgh.. 83	 93
Sunday	29		
		Halt..1 day	
Tuesd	31	Richmond 28	
JUNE	1	Head Lynchs 32	
Thursd	2	Frederksburgh .. 35½	.... 95½
		Halt..1 day	
Saturd	4	Mt. Vernon	45
		Halt..8 days	

Mondy.	13	Bladensburgh	24	
Tuesdy.	14	Baltimore	34	
Wedny.	15	Susquehanna	36	
Thursd	16	Wilmington	35½	
Friday	17	Philadelpa.	27½	157
		Total		181 6½

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Thursday, 3 Oclock, [March 10, 1791]

The P. has given the enclosed letters an attentive reading and consideration, and has found nothing in them but what is *just,* and in the hands of a prudent user *proper;* but at the end of the words of the letter to Mr. C[80] "this wrong" 2d. page 10th. line may it not be well to add "yet with that prudence and circumspection which will not commit the Government to the necessity of proceeding to extremity." And may not the expression of the last page be too strong for events and the interest of this Country? Reconsider them.[81]

To DANIEL CARROLL

Philadelphia, March 11, 1791.

Dear Sir: I write to you by this post in conformity with my promise so to do. But it is not yet in my power to determine whether I can set out on Monday or not. If I find the roads do not mend much between this time and that, I shall not be anxious about beginning my journey on that day, even if business

[80] William Carmichael.

[81] From the original in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

The case involved was the claim of Joseph St. Marie against the Spanish government for goods seized in 1787, on the east side of the Mississippi by Spanish soldiers. The matter in question was Jefferson's letter to Carmichael, Mar. 12, 1791, a press copy of which is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

would permit. As my fixing the day for meeting the Commissioners at George Town must depend upon my departure from this place, I cannot determine upon the former until the latter is decided. I shall write to you again by the Monday's post, and in that letter shall be able to say with certainty when I leave this city. With very great esteem, I am etc.[82]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of Philadelphia, March 15, 1791.

Having thought fit pursuant to the powers vested in me by the Act entitled, "an Act repealing after the last day of June next the duties heretofore laid upon distilled Spirits imported from abroad and laying others in their stead, and also upon Spirits, distilled within the United States and for appropriating the same" to divide the United States into the following fourteen Districts, namely, one to consist of the State of New Hampshire, another to consist of the State of Massachusetts, another to consist of the State of Rhode Island, and Providence plantations, another to consist of the State of Connecticut, another to consist of the State of Vermont, another to consist of the State of New York, another to consist of the State of New Jersey, another to consist of the State of Pennsylvania, another to consist of the State of Delaware, another to consist of the State of Maryland, another to consist of the State of Virginia, another to consist of the State of North Carolina, another to consist of the State of South Carolina, and another to consist of the State of Georgia; and having by and with the advice and consent of the Senate appointed the following persons to be supervisors of the sd. Districts respectively, that is to say, for the

[82] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

District of New Hampshire, Joshua Wentworth, for the District of Massachusetts, Nathal. Goham, for the District of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, John S. Dexter; for the District of Connecticut, John Chester; for the District of Vermont, Noah Smith; for the District of New York, William S. Smith; for the District of New Jersey, Aaron Dunham; for the District of Pennsylvania, George Clymer; for the District of Delaware, Henry Latimer; for the District of Maryland, George Gale; for the District of Virginia, Edward Carrington; for the District of North Carolina, William Polk; for the District of South Carolina, Daniel Stevens; and for the District of Georgia, John Matthews.

I do hereby in further execution of the said powers make and establish the following supplementary arrangements Vizt.

First, that the compensations to the said Supervisions respectively shall be as follow. To the Supervisor of New Hampshire a salary of five hundred Dollars, and a commission of one half per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Massachusetts a salary of 800 Dollars and a Commission of ½ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Rhode Island and Providence plantations a salary of 500 Dollars and a commission of ½ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Connecticut a salary of 600 Dollars and a Commission of ½ per Cent.

To the supervisor of Vermont a salary of 400 Dollars and a Commission of ½ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of New York a salary of 800 Dollars and a commission of ½ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of New Jersey a salary of 400 Dollars and a commission of ½ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Pennsylvania a salary of one thousand Dollars and a commission of ½ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Delaware a salary of 400 Dollars and a commission of one per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Maryland a salary of 700 Dollars and a commission of one per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Virginia a salary of 1000 Dollars and a Commission of one per Cent.

To the Supervisor of North Carolina a salary of 700 Dollars and a commission of one per Cent.

To the Supervisor of South Carolina a salary of 700 Dollars and a commission of one per cent.

To the Supervisor of Georgia a salary of 500 Dollars and a commission of one per Cent.

Secondly, That the States hereafter mentioned shall be distributed into the following Surveys of Inspection and under the dispositions and regulations which follow Vizt.

The Districts of New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Providence plantations, of Connecticut, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland for the present, and Georgia shall severally, form, each one survey, and the duties of Inspector of each Survey shall be performed by the Supervisor of the District comprehending the same.

Massachusetts shall form three Surveys No. 1, 2, and 3, the first consisting of the Province of Maine; the second, of the Counties of Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Hampshire and Berkshire, the third of the residue of the State.

The duties of Inspector of the Survey No. 1 shall for the present be performed by the Supervisor.

For the Survey No. 2. there shall be an Inspector, whose compensation shall be a salary of 500 Dollars, and a commission of ½ pr. Cent. To this office I shall appoint Jonathn: Jackson.

For the Survey No. 3 there shall also be an Inspector, whose compensation shall be a salary of 500 Dollars, and a Commission of ½ pr. Cent. To this office I shall appoint Leonard Jarvis.

Pensylvania shall form four Surveys No. 1. 2. 3 and 4: the first consisting of the City and County of Philadelphia and the Counties of Bucks and Montgomery. The duties of Inspector of this survey shall for the present be performed by the Supervisor. The second consisting of the Counties of Berks, Northampton, Luzerne and Northumberland. the third consisting of the Counties of Delaware, Chester, Lancaster, York, Dauphin, Cumberland, Franklin, Mifflin and Huntington. the fourth consisting of the Counties of Bedford, Westmoreland, Fayette, Washington and Alleghany. To each of the three last surveys there shall be an Inspector, whose compensation shall be a salary of 450 Dollars and a Commission of one per Cent. I shall appoint for No. 2. James Collins and for No. 4. John Neville. It is my wish to appoint for No. 3. Edwd. Hand. But as his acceptance of the office is doubted, and some inconveniences might attend a refusal; I have concluded to leave a Commission with a Blank for the name; desiring that you will take measures to ascertain the disposition of the said Edward Hand, and if this should appear to be in favor of an acceptance; that the blank be filled with his name; if against it with the name of John McDowel.

With regard to the District of Virginia, I shall postpone any farther arrangements till my arrival within that State.

North Carolina shall form five Surveys No. 1. 2. 3. 4. and 5., the first consisting of the counties of Wilmington, Onslow, New Hanover, Brunswick, Bladen, Duplin, Anson, Richmond, Moore, Cumberland, Robertson[83] and Sampson; the second, of the Counties of Carteret, Hyde, Beaufort, Pitt, Cravin, Jones, Dobbs [*sic*] Johnson,[84] Wayne, the third of the Counties of Kurretuck,[85] Campden, Pasquotank, Perqumans, Chowan,

[83] Robeson.
[84] Johnston.
[85] Currituck.

Gates, Hartford,[86] Zyrich [*sic*]; the fourth of the counties of Northampton, Martin, Halifax; Nash, Edgecomb, Warren, Franklin, Caswell, Orange, Randolph, Grandville, Wake and Chatham: the fifth of the Counties of Mecklinbergh, Montgomery, Roan,[87] Iredell, Surry, Stokes, Rockingham, Gilford, Lincoln, Rutherford, Burke, Wilkes. I shall appoint for the present the Collector of Wilmington as Inspector of Survey No. 1, the Collector of Newburn as Inspector of No. 2. The Collector of Edenton as Inspector of Survey No. 3, and the compensation in each Case shall be a commission of two pr. Cent.

To each of the Surveys Nos. 4. and 5. there shall be an Inspector whose compensation shall be a salary of 450: Dollars, and a Commission of one pr. Cent. It is my present intention to appoint for No. 4 John Whitaker, and for No. 5 John McDowel. But as I shall have an opportunity of further enquiry in the course of my journey through the State, I shall leave commissions with blanks which are not to be filled till after the tenth day of June next; but if nothing to the contrary is heard from me by that day, the Blanks are severally to be filled with the names above mentioned.

The State of South Carolina shall form three Surveys No. 1. 2. and 3. the first consisting of the Counties of Colleton, Berkely, Washington, Mareon [*sic*], Bartholomew, Charlestown, Granville, Hilton, Lincoln, Shrewsbury, Winton, Orange, Lexington and Lewisburgh, the second consisting of the Counties of Wingan, Williamsburgh, Liberty, Kingston, Darlington, Chesterfield, Marlborough, Clarendon, Clermont, Lancaster, Kershaw, Richland, Fairfield, Chester, York. The third consisting of the Counties of Edgefield, Abbeville, Newbury, Laurens,

[86] Hertford.
[87] Rowan.

Union, Spartanburgh, Greenville, Pendleton. The duties of Inspector of Survey No. 1. to be performed by the Supervisor. The Collector of Georgetown to be the Inspector of No. 2. with a salary of three hundred Dollars, and a Commission of 2 pr. Cent. And for Survey No. 3, there shall be an Inspector, whose compensation shall be a salary of 450. Dollars and a commission of one per Cent. To this office I shall appoint Andrew Pickens.

The commission in each case shall be computed upon the Nett product of the duties on Spirits distilled within the United States, and within the jurisdiction of the Officer to whom it is allowed, which nett product shall be determined by deducting at each stage of the computation all anticedent charges.

Thirdly, That at every port where there is a Collector and Surveyor, the Surveyor shall be an Inspector; and at every port where there is a Collector only, he shall be an Inspector. The duties of these Inspectors except in the Cases herein before specified, shall extend only to spirits imported from foreign Countries.

Fourthly, That, for the sake of uniformity, the Officers to be appointed by the respective supervisors shall be denominated Collectors of the Revenue.

Fifthly, That the compensation to those Officers respectively shall be a commission on the sums which shall from time to time be collected by each, of two per Centum, on the duties arising on spirits distilled from foreign materials; and of 4 per Centum, on the duties arising on Spirits distilled from materials of the growth or production of the United States.

Having thus made known to you the arrangements which I have thought fit to adopt, you will proceed to notify them to whomsoever it may concern. And you will add such instruc-

tions to the respective officers, as shall be necessary for their government in the execution of their several offices, in conformity to the Law, and to the tenor of these presents.[88]

[88] A paraphrase of this letter is entered in another "Letter Book" (No. 25) as a record of presidential action and dated March 15, in which several variations are to be noted, to wit, the North Carolina county of Duplin is there given as Dauphin, and Zyrich is given as Tyrrell. In South Carolina, Lexington County is omitted. Jonathan Jackson was named inspector of Survey No. 2, in Massachusetts, and Leonard Jarvis of Survey No. 3.

For Maryland, two surveys were established: "No. 1 comprehends the Counties of St. Mary's, Somerset, Calvert, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Kent, Charles, Talbot, Dorchester, Baltimore, Ann Arundel, Worcester, Hartford, Cecil, and Prince Georges. No. 2 consists of the Counties of Montgomery, Washington, Frederick and Alleghany. The Supervisor of the District, George Gale, officiates as Inspector of Survey No. 1, his compensation is a salary of Seven hundred Dollars, and a commission of one per cent. Philip Thomas has been appointed Inspector of Survey No. 2. with a salary of Four hundred and fifty Dollars, and a commission of one per cent.

"Virginia," on which action was postponed March 15 "has been divided into seven Surveys of Inspection. No. 1 consists of the Counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, King George, Caroline, Hanover, Henrico, Charles City, York, Gloucester, Matthews, Middlesex, Essex, King and Queen, King William and New Kent: No. 2 of the Counties of Stafford, Prince William, Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier, Culpeper, Orange, Albemarle, Louisa and Spotsylvania; No. 3 of the Counties of Goochland, Fluvanna, Amherst, Bedford, Franklin, Henry, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Halifax, Charlotte, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, Nottoway, Amelia, Powhatan, Cumberland, Buckingham, Prince Edward and Campbell: No. 4 of the Counties of Princes-Anne, Chesterfield, Norfolk, Isle of Wight, Sussex, Surry, Prince George, Dinwiddie, Brunswick, Greenesville, Southampton, Nansemond, Accomack and Northampton; No. 5, of the Counties of Frederick, Berkly, Hampshire, Hardy, Monongalia, Ohio, Harrison, Randolph, Pendleton, Augusta, Rockingham and Shenandoah; No. 6. of the Counties of Rockbridge, Botetourt, Montgomery, Wythe, Washington, Russel, Greenbriar, and Kanhawa; No. 7 consists of the District of Kentucky. Edward Carrington has been appointed Supervisor with a salary of one thousand Dollars, and a Commission of one per centum. Drury Rasgsdale has been appointed Inspector of Survey No. 1. Edward Stevens of No. 2. Mayo Carrington of No. 3. Thomas Newton of No. 4. Edward Smith of No. 5. James Brackenridge of No. 6. and Thomas Marshall of No. 7. The compensations to these Officers are, to each a salary of four hundred and fifty Dollars, and a Commission of one per centum."

For "North Carolina. . . . William Polk has been appointed Supervisor, and a salary of seven hundred Dollars, and a commission of one per cent have been assigned him as a compensation. James Read has been appointed Inspector of Survey No. 1. John Daves of No. 2. Thomas Benbury of No. 3. John Whitaker of No. 4, and Joseph McDowell the elder of No. 5. The compensation to the Inspector of Surveys No. 1. 2. and 3. are, to each, a Commission of two per Centum; those inspectors being also Officers of the customs. A salary of four hundred and fifty Dollars and a commission of one per cent have been assigned as a compensation to the Inspectors of Surveys No. 4 and 5. respectively."

In "South Carolina. . . . The duties of Inspector of Survey No. 1 are performed by the Supervisor, Daniel Stevens, to whom a salary of seven hundred Dollars and a Commission of one per cent have been assigned as a compensation. Benjamin Cudworth has been appointed Inspector of Survey No. 2. and Sylvanus Walker of No. 3.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of Philadelphia, March 15, 1791.

By Virtue of the several Acts, the one entitled "An Act for raising and adding another regiment to the military establishment of the United States and for making further provision for the protection of the frontiers", and the other entitled "An Act making an appropriation for the purpose therein mentioned", I do hereby authorise and empower you by yourself or any other person or persons to borrow on behalf of the United States, within the said States or elsewhere a sum or sums not exceeding in the whole, three hundred and thirty two thousand six hundred and eighty six Dollars and twenty Cents, and to make or cause to be made for that purpose such Contract or Contracts as shall be necessary, and for the interest of the said States in conformity to the said several acts subject to the restrictions and

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the compensation assign'd to the Inspector of Survey No. 2, is a salary of three hundred Dollars and a commission of two per centum, to the Inspector of survey No. 3 a salary of four hundred and fifty Dollars and a Commission of one per Cent.

"Georgia forms one survey. The Supervisor, John Matthews, officiates as Inspector. The compensation assigned him is a salary of five hundred Dollars, and a Commission of one per centum.

"The Ports, at which neither surveyor nor collector resides, have been placed under the inspection of the Collector or Surveyor of the District to which they belong, as the one or the other is the Inspector of the Revenue for the Port where he resides. The duties of these Inspectors are confined to Spirits imported from abroad; and, as they bear an analogy to those which they have been accustomed to perform, no compensation has been assigned. . . .

"The Officers directed, by the 18th. Section of the Law, to be appointed by the Supervisors, have been denominated Collectors of the Revenue. Their number has been of necessity left to the discretion of the Supervisor, with these general intimations, that they should be in all cases as few as the proper execution of the business would permit, and that, in regard to the collection of the duties on Stills, one for each County would suffice. But this regulation necessarily varies, as the stills are more or less dispersed. where they are much scattered two, three, or more counties have been assigned to the same person. The compensation to these officers is a commission, on the sums collected by each, of two per centum on the product of the duties on spirits distilled from foreign materials; and of four per centum on the product of the duties arising from Spirits distilled from Domestic materials, whether per gallon or by the Still. This difference was dictated by the different nature of the Business."

limitations therein respectively contained; and also to this further restriction, that the United States shall have a right to reimburse the principal and interest of the monies which shall be borrowed in pursuance hereof, at the end of the present year or as soon thereafter as they shall think fit. And for so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant.[89]

To DAVID HUMPHREYS

Philadelphia, March 16, 1791.

My dear Sir: As this letter is wholly of a private nature, I refer you to Mr. Jefferson's official communications for every thing relative to your appointment at the court of Lisbon, &ca. and shall confine myself to acknowledging your two letters, viz. one from London of October 31. and the other from Lisbon of November 30, 1790, and to such general observations as may occur in the course of my writing.

The desponding accounts of our public affairs which you mention to have been transmitted to Europe, by a Person high in office here, are happily contradicted by facts too stubborn to be overturned; and, altho' it is to be regretted that such gloomy relations should be given by a man, who, it may be supposed, is perfectly acquainted with our political situation, yet there is some pleasure in knowing that his better half has asserted things quite contrary.[90]

The remarks of a foreign Count are such as do no credit to his judgment, and as little to his heart. They are the superficial observations of a few months' residence, and an insult to the

[89] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[90] A letter reported to have been written by Vice President John Adams to Dr. Richard Price, which Humphreys had not seen; but he had seen a letter from Abigail Adams "of a directly contrary tenor."

inhabitants of a country, where he has received much more attention and civility than he seems to merit.[91]

It gives me pleasure to hear, that Mr. Paine is likely to succeed with his bridge, and Rumsey in his ingenious projects.[92]

Congress finished their session on the 3 of March, in the course of which they received and granted the applications of Kentucky and Vermont for admission into the Union; the former after August, 1792; and the latter immediately; they made provision for the interest on the national debt, by laying a higher duty than that which heretofore existed on spirituous liquors imported or manufactured; they established a national Bank; they passed a law for certain measures to be taken towards establishing a mint; and finished much other business of less importance, conducting on all occasions with great harmony and cordiality. In some few instances, particularly in passing the law for higher duties mentioned above, and more especially on the subject of the Bank, the line between the southern and eastern interests appeared more strongly marked than could have been wished; The former against and the latter in favor of those measures. But the debates were conducted with temper and candor.

The convention between Spain and England seems once more to have composed the European Powers, except the Empress and the Turks, and the Emperor appears to have settled matters pretty thoroughly in his dominions. Of the state of things in France we can form no just idea, so various and contradictory are our accounts from thence; but we most devoutly

[91] Comte de Moustier's picture of American affairs "was dark and gloomy" and "Count Andriani has written things monstrously absurd and ill-founded . . . somebody has written to Paris, describing a person, once a Colonel in the American Army, as now employed here in intrigues relative to the Spanish war." This pointed to Humphreys and his mission. Humphreys's letter (October 31) to Washington is in the *Washington Papers*.

[92] Paine's bridge was of iron, and James Rumsey was perfecting his steamboat.

wish a speedy and happy termination of the struggle, which has for some time past convulsed that kingdom.

Peace and tranquillity pervade the territory of the United States, except on the N. W. side of the Ohio, where the frequent depredations of the Indians made it necessary to form an expedition against them last fall. But that has not been productive of the consequences which were expected from it. The Indians still continue their hostilities, and measures are now taking to convince them (if they do not see the folly of their ways before they can be carried into effect) that the enmity of the United States is as much to be dreaded as their friendship is to be desired. Our public credit is restored, our resources are increasing, and the general appearance of things at least equals the most sanguine expectation that was formed of the effects of the present government.

I am about to set out tomorrow or next day on a tour through the southern States. I am under the necessity of commencing my journey with very bad roads in order that I may take such advantage of the season as to be leaving the southern extremity before the travelling shall be rendered disagreeable, and perhaps dangerous by the heat. I expect to return to this city in the latter end of June or early in July. Since the rising of Congress I have been, and shall be till my departure, very busily engaged in making such arrangements with the several departments as will enable me to be absent for several months, without interrupting public business; and if I have not said every thing in this letter that I intended, or that you might expect, it must be imputed to the hurry of the moment. But at any rate there is one thing I must not omit, which is to tell you, that I am very sincerely your affectionate friend.[93]

[93] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

[March 16, 1791.]

My dear Sir: Enclosed is the last letter I have received from Messrs. Deakins and Stoddart. What step had I best take to bring matters to a close with Burn's, and by declaring at *once* the Site of the public buildings, prevent some inconvenience which I see may arise from the opinions promulgated by Mr. L'Enfont? as much probably from complaisance as judgment. Yrs.[94]

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

Phila., March 17, 1791.

Gentlemen: On passing thro George town I propose to examine the ground between that town and the Eastern branch, and on that examination to fix on a site for the public buildings. should there be any circumstances in favour of the ground next adjoining to George town, I foresee that the old town of Hamburg will be a considerable obstacle, as the streets of that will probably not coincide with those which might be proposed for the federal city. on behalf of the public I should be much pleased if the proprietors of lots in that town would voluntarily consent to cede them at such price as may be set on the adjacent lands which have been or shall be ceded.

I will ask the favor of you to have application made to them in time for their decision to meet me at George town.[95]

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[94] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On March 16 Washington wrote briefly to Daniel Carroll, that "the business in the Treasury and War departments is not yet completed. . . . When I am able to determine on the day of my departure from this city I will write to you again." This letter is in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

[95] The draft, in the writing of Thomas Jefferson, is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress. The date line is in the writing of Washington.

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

Philadelphia, March 17, 1791.

Gentlemen: In order to avail the public of the willingness expressed by the inhabitants of Washington county, as mentioned in your letter of the 11th. to sign a paper ceding their lots in Hamburg, on being requested by any person under my direction, I have written the inclosed letter, which, if you think it will answer the desired end, you will be so good as to dispatch to them, with the necessary propositions in form. I am aware that by this means it will become known that you are acting for the public: but there will be no reason for keeping this longer secret after my arrival at George town.

With respect to Mr. Burns I will confer with you on my arrival as to what is best to be done in his case, should you not have obtained a cession for him in the mean time.[96]

To DANIEL CARROLL

Philadelphia, March 17, 1791.

Dear Sir: The enclosed letter was written to go by the post of yesterday, but was omitted to be put to the Office in season.

I have thought best, upon every consideration, to fix on monday next for the day of my departure from this city. In which case, I expect to be four days in travelling to Baltimore; and as I shall be under the necessity of going by the way of Annapolis, I must calculate upon three days more for my journey from Baltimore to that place and my stay there;[97] one day will carry

[96] The draft, in the writing of Thomas Jefferson, is in the *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress. The date line is in the writing of Washington.

[97] See footnote ([78]) to "Southern Tour Itinerary," Mar. 10, 1791, *ante*.

me from thence to George Town; which will bring it to Monday the 28th of this month, at which time, if no accident intervenes, I shall expect to meet the Commissioners at that place, of which I will thank you to give them notice. With very great regard I am etc.[98]

To THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Philadelphia, March 17, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 11th. instant,[99] and the papers therewith transmitted.

The Attorney-General, to whom they were referred, has reported an opinion,[1] of which the enclosed is a copy.

With great esteem I am etc.[2]

To MARTHA DANGERFIELD BLAND

Philadelphia, March 18, 1791.

With every disposition, my dear Madam, to serve you either in my public or private capacity, I have to regret that such is the nature of the request contained in your letter of the 23 ultimo

[98] In the writing of Tobias Lear in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

[99] Not now found in the *Washington Papers.*

[1] The Attorney General's opinion is not now found in the *Washington Papers.*

[2] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On March 17 Washington wrote to the Secretary of State: "The P. has just recd. the enclosed. He prays Mr. Jefferson to write by tomorrows Post to Major L'Enfant agreeably to what was mentioned this morning." Jefferson furnished a draft of this proposed letter and Washington wrote another of his laconic notes to the effect that: "The Postscript to your letter of this morning is quite sufficient for the purpose intended."

A press copy of the postscript to Jefferson's letter of March 17 to Major L'Enfant reads: "there are certainly considerable advantages on the Eastern branch: but there are very strong reasons also in favor of the position between Rock creek and Tyber independent of the face of the ground. it is the desire that the public mind should be in equilibria between these two places till the President arrives, and we shall be obliged to you to endeavor to poise their expectations." This press copy of the postscript, together with the above notes, are in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

as to preclude the possibility of my being useful to you in the matter to which it relates. This will more fully appear from an opinion on the subject given by the Attorney General, to whom as a legal character, and a friend, I submitted the consideration of your letter. His answer is herewith transcribed, and will serve, at least, to shew the ready compliance paid to your request by Madam, Your etc.[3]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

March 19, 1791.

The President concurs with the Secretary of State in opinion that, circumstances make it advisable to commit to Mr. Short and the Marqs. de la Fayette to press in a discreet manner, our settlement with the Court of Spain on a broader bottom than merely that of the case of St. Marie, and authorises him to take measures accordingly.[4]

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE[5]

Philadelphia, March 19, 1791.

Renewing to you, my dear Sir, assurances of the most perfect esteem and affection, I desire to refer the interruptions which our correspondence has lately sustained, on my part, to causes which I am persuaded you will readily admit as excusable. To the fulfilment of public duties, too interesting to be neglected, and too multiplied to allow me much leisure, I am forced to sacrifice the wishes of friendship, and the pleasures of private life. This reason to you, who suffer the same privations, will

[3]From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[4]From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[5]The "Letter Book" address is to "Monsieur de la Fayette" in recognition of the abolition of the noblesse of France by decree of the national assembly, June 19, 1790; but for consistency, Washington's letters to Lafayette will continue to be to the "Marquis" in this edition of the *Writings of Washington*.

apologize for the abridgment of an intercourse, ever grateful to my feelings, and conducive to my happiness.

The tender concern, which you express on my late illness, awakens emotions which words will not explain, and to which your own sensibility can best do justice. My health is now quite restored, and I flatter myself with the hope of a long exemption from sickness. On Monday next I shall enter on the practice of your friendly prescription of exercise; intending at that time to begin a journey to the southward, during which I propose visiting all the southern States.

Our country, my dear Sir, (and it is truly yours) is fast progressing in its political importance, and social happiness. The last session of Congress has been occupied in additional arrangements of finance, to establish the public credit, and provide for the expenditures of government; a small increase of our military establishment has also been judged necessary, to reclaim, if possible, and to chastise, if required, the irregularities of some indian tribes on the western waters. Your friend, General St. Clair resumes his functions as Major General.

The laws of the United States, adapted to the public exigencies, are framed with wisdom and moderation, and acquiesced in with cheerfulness. The administration of them, aided by the affectionate partiality of my countrymen, is attended with no unnecessary inconvenience, and every circumstance is auspicious to the felicity of your fellow-citizens in this section of the globe. They are not less so, I devoutly hope in that country, which is more immediately the object of your patriotic attentions.

The distance, which separates us, joined to the delicacy of the subject, has always suspended my opinion on your national affairs. I am well aware, that it is impossible to judge with precision of measures, the motives of which are sometimes

unknown, and the necessity of them not always understood. But there is one circumstance, on which I find it difficult to suppress an anxious wish; that the present National Assembly may not protract their own existence so long, as to beget any uneasiness on that score. The confirmation of their decrees will be best made by a second representation of the People, and that representation, to act efficiently, as a legislative body, may possibly be required to be re-organized. My affection for the French nation, my sincere wish that their government may be respectable, and the people happy, will excuse the disclosure of this sentiment, the only one, I believe, that I have ventured to offer on the subject of the revolution.

Like you, my dear Sir, I sighed for retirement; like me, I am afraid, you must continue the sacrifice. I have obeyed your request in communicating your remembrance to the friends mentioned in your letter of the 26th of August. Mrs. Washington joins me in respectful compliments to Madam de la Fayette; and I entreat you to be assured of the inviolable respect and esteem &c.

P. S. Your old Aid de Camp Geo: Augt. Washington, has got another Son,[6] to whom he has given your name.[7]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Philadelphia, March 19, 1791.

Pay or cause to be paid to the Secretary of State Forty thousand Dollars to be applied to the purposes of the Act, intitled "An Act providing the means of Intercourse between the United States and foreign Nations" for which this shall be your warrant.[7]

[6] George Fayette Washington.
[7] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

PROCLAMATION

Philadelphia, March 19, 1791.

Whereas it hath been represented to me that James O'Fallon is levying an armed force in that part of the State of Virginia which is called Kentucky, disturbs the public peace, and sets at defiance the treaties of the United States with the Indian tribes, the act of Congress intituled "An act to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes", and my proclamations of the 14th and 26th days of August last founded thereon; and it is my earnest desire that those who have incautiously associated themselves with the said James O'Fallon may be warned of their danger; I have therefore thought fit to publish this proclamation, hereby declaring that all persons violating the treaties and act aforesaid shall be prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the law.

And I do, moreover, require all officers of the United States whom it may concern to use their best exertions to bring to justice any persons offending in the premises.[8]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Bladensburgh, March 27, 1791.

Dear Sir: My attention was so much occupied the days preceeding my departure from Philadelphia, with matters of a public nature, that I could scarcely think of those which more immediately related to my own.

[8]The text is from Richardson's *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*, who took it from a broadside in the Department of State.

On March 26, while Washington was at Annapolis, Md., he received and answered an address from the faculty of St. John's College, both of which are recorded in the "Letter Book' in the *Washington Papers*.

Who the Steward and House keeper shall be, must be left to Mrs. Washington and yourself to determine from circumstances, and the offers that are made. Francis, unless Holkers[9] man could be unexceptionably obtained, I should prefer, for reasons I have already mentioned to you; but be *him* or *them* who they may, it must be expressly understood that wine is not admissable at their Table; if it is so under any pretence whatever, it will terminate as the permission given Hyde has done. It wd be well in all other respects to have a clear definition of the expectations, and obligations of the Parties, that mistakes may not happen. If Frauncis should be employed, it ought to be made known to him, that his services in the Kitchen as usual, will be expected; and that in case of the present Cooks leaving me, or attempting to raise his wages, that he is to do with Herculas, and such under aids as shall be found indispensably necessary; nay further, that if upon trial he finds, as I am *sure* is the case that we can do without Vicars, he may be discharged. How far, under present circumstances the Dutch girl in the Kitchen is necessary, you must judge of, and act accordingly. As Jacobs wife is brought into the family, the new Laundry woman will go out of course.

I wish you would have all the packages moved out of the Garden and have it kept in compleat order, at *my expence* and the paved yard also: Rhemer and Jacob are, certainly competent to this business. The top of one of the Urns in the Garden was broke off by its falling. I made John Mauls carry it to Mr. Hyde, let it be cemented on again.

Furnish Mrs. Washington with what money she may want, and from time to time ask her if she does want, as she is not fond of applying. As I write in haste, I shall add no more at

[9] John Holker.

this time but my best wishes for Mrs. Lear &ca., for the history of our travels and adventures *so far* I refer to a letter I wrote to Mrs. Washington from Annapolis yesterday. I am etc.[10]

To TOBIAS LEAR

George Town, March 28, 1791.

Dear Sir: Late this afternoon your letters of the 23d and 24th instant came to hand, and as the Mail is about to be closed (leaving this before sun rise in the morning) I shall, as I must, be short.

I return some letters to be filed; one from Colo. Blaine to be given to Genl. Knox, to be acted upon as he pleases; he is as well acquainted with the man as I am, and knows the want of such a character better than I do; another letter from Colo. Cannon, which I may venture to say proves him to be, what I will not call him; and, that I need never look for any Rents from him. I pray you to say to him, if he does not come to Philadelphia during my absence, that his *own* statement, given in at New York, does not justify his prest. report, and that I am too well acquainted with the prices of grain and the demd. for it last year in his own neighbourhood to be imposed upon by such a tale as his letter exhibits. In a word, that I am by no means satisfied with his treatment of me; for sure I am I shall get nothing from him but *assurances* of improvements, whilst he is either applying my rents to his own use, or suffering the tenants to go free from the payment of them.

One of the Pads to the Waggon harness was left, it seems, at Mr. Clark's, send it by the Stage to Alexandria; if it comes too

[10] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

late the matter will not be great. I am not able to say yet, how long I shall be detained in this place, where I arrived before breakfast this morning. I am etc.

P. S. I send with my best remembrance a Sermon for Mrs. W——n. I presume it is good, coming all the way from New Hampshire; but do not vouch for it not having read a word of it. It was one of your enclosures.[11]

To GOVERNOR CHARLES PINCKNEY

Georgetown, Maryland, March 29, 1791.

Dear Sir: I had the pleasure to receive your Excellency's obliging letter of the 8th. instant last evening. I am thus far on my tour through the southern States; but, as I travel with only one sett of horses, and must make occasional halts, the progress of my journey is exposed to such uncertainty as admits not of fixing a day for my arrival at Charleston.

While I express the grateful sense, which I entertain of your Excellency's polite offer to accommodate me at your house during my stay in Charleston, your goodness will permit me to deny myself that pleasure. Having, with a view to avoid giving inconvenience to private families, early prescribed to myself the rule of declining all invitations to quarters on my journies, I have been repeatedly under a necessity similar to the present of refusing those offers of hospitality, which would otherwise have been both pleasing and acceptable.

I beg your Excellency to be persuaded of the sincere esteem etc.[12]

[11] The text is from *Letters from George Washington to Tobias Lear* (Bixby Collection, Rochester: 1905).

[12] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

PROCLAMATION

Georgetown, March 30, 1791.

Whereas by a proclamation bearing date the 24th. day of January of this present year, and in pursuance of certain acts of the States of Maryland and Virginia, and of the Congress of the United States therein mentioned, certain lines of experiment were directed to be run in the neighbourhood of Georgetown in Maryland for the purpose of determining the location of a part of the territory of ten miles square for the permanent seat of the government of the United States, and a certain part was directed to be located within the said lines of experiment on both sides of the Potomac, and above the limit of the eastern branch prescribed by the said act of Congress.

And Congress by an amendatory act passed on the third day of the present month of March have given further authority to the President of the U. S. "to make any part of the territory below the said limit, and above the mouth of hunting Creek, a part of the said district, so as to include a convenient part of the eastern branch, and of the lands lying on the lower side thereof, and also the town of Alexandria."

Now therefore for the purpose of amending and completing the location of the whole of the said territory of the ten miles square in conformity with the said amendatory act of Congress, I do hereby declare and make known that the whole of the said territory shall be located and included within the four lines following, that is to say:

Beginning at Jones's point, the upper cape of Hunting Creek in Virginia, and at an angle in the outset of 45 degrees west of the north: and running in a direct line ten miles for the first line: then beginning again at the same Jones's point, and running another direct line at a right angle with the first across

the Potowmack, ten miles for the second line: then from the termination of the said first and second lines running two other direct lines of ten miles each, the one crossing the eastern branch aforesaid, and the other the Potowmac and meeting each other in a point.

And I do accordingly direct the Commissioners, named under the authority of the said first mentioned act of Congress, to proceed forthwith to have the said four lines run, and by proper metes and bounds defined and limited, and thereof to make due report under their hands and seals: and the territory so to be located, defined, and limited, shall be the whole territory accepted by the said acts of Congress as the district for the permanent seat of the government of the U. S.[13]

To GEORGE CLENDINEN

Philadelphia,[14] March 31, 1791.

Sir: Since writing to you on the 21st. of February by Mr. Moore, (in which letter I gave some instructions respecting my

[13] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. A draft of this proclamation, in Jefferson's writing, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress, and contains the following, which was not incorporated in the proclamation as issued.

". . . And Whereas the said first mentioned act of Congress did further enact that the said Commissioners should, under the direction of the President of the U. S. provide suitable buildings for the accommodation of Congress and of the President and for the public offices of the government of the United States, I do hereby further declare and make known, that [the highest summit of lands in the town heretofore called Hamburg, within the said territory, with a convenient extent of grounds circumjacent, shall be appropriated for a Capitol for the accommodation of Congress, and such other lands between Georgetown and the stream heretofore called the Tyber, as shall on due examination be found convenient and sufficient, shall be appropriated for the accommodation of the President of the U. S. for the time being, and for the Public offices of the government of the U. S.]* And I do hereby direct the said Commissioners accordingly.

"In testimony whereof I have caused the seal of the U. S. to be affixed to these presents and signed the same with my hand. Done at Georgetown aforesaid the day of March in the year of our Lord 1791 and of the Independence of the U. S. the fifteenth."

(*The part within brackets being conjectural, will be rendered conformable to the ground when more accurately examined.)

See Washington's letter to the Secretary of State, Mar. 31, 1791, *post*.

[14] A mistake of the "Letter Book" copyist. The place should be Mount Vernon.

lands in your neighbourhood) I have disposed of all my lands on the Ohio and great Kanawa to Mr. de Barth a french Gentleman. I have therefore to request that you will stop all measures, which you may have taken, or may be about to take relative to the settling or otherwise disposing of my lands agreeably to any instructions which I may have given for that purpose. As I have engaged to deliver them to Mr. de Barth free from all incumbrances. And, should any steps have been taken in the business, I must beg you to withdraw them so as to leave the lands entirely free. You will likewise be so good as to return me the draughts &ca. of the land, which you received from Colonel Lewis.

I must in the meantime beg you to be assured, Sir, that I have a proper sense of your attention and goodness in the readiness with which you have given me your assistance towards my arranging this property, and my best thanks are offered therefor. With very great esteem etc.[15]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1791.

Dear Sir: Having been so fortunate as to reconcile the contending interests of Georgetown and Carrollsburg,[16] and to unite them in such an agreement as permits the public purposes to be carried into effect on an extensive and proper scale, I have the pleasure to transmit to you the enclosed proclamation, which, after annexing your counter signature and the seal of the United States, you will cause to be published.

The terms agreed on between me, on the part of the United States, with the Land holders of Georgetown and Carrolls-

[15] From the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[16] Carrollsburg was bounded by the Eastern Branch, or Anacostia River, and James Creek; it extended as far north as N Street SW.

burg are. That all the land from Rock creek along the river to the Eastern-branch and so upwards to or above the Ferry[17] including a breadth of about a mile and a half, the whole containing from three to five thousand acres is ceded to the public, on condition That, when the whole shall be surveyed and laid off as a city, (which Major L'Enfant is now directed to do) the present Proprietors shall retain every other lot; and, for such part of the land as may be taken for public use, for squares, walks, &ca., they shall be allowed at the rate of Twenty five pounds per acre. The Public having the right to reserve such parts of the wood on the land as may be thought necessary to be preserved for ornament &ca. The Land holders to have the use and profits of all their ground until the city is laid off into lots, and sale is made of those lots which, by this agreement, become public property. No compensation is to be made for the ground that may be occupied as streets or alleys.

To these conditions all the principal Land holders except the purchaser of Slater's property who did not attend have subscribed, and it is not doubted that the few, who were not present, will readily assent thereto; even the obstinate Mr. Burns has come into the measure.

The enlarged plan of this agreement having done away the necessity and indeed postponed the propriety, of designating the particular spot, on which the public buildings should be placed, until an accurate survey and sub-division of the whole ground is made, I have left out that paragraph of the proclamation.

It was found, on running the lines that the comprehension of Bladensburg within the district, must have occasioned the exclusion of more important objects, and, of this I am convinced

[17]At the foot of Kentucky Avenue SE.

as well by my observation as Mr. Ellicott's opinion. With great regard and etc.[18]

To HANNAH FAIRFAX WASHINGTON[19]

Mount Vernon, April 1, 1791.

My dear Madam: The letters with which you were pleased to honor me dated the 24th of February and 12th. of March came duly to hand. The last at George town, the other at Philadelphia; but neither before arrangements had been taken (by letter) with the Supervisor of the Virginia District respecting the appointment of proper characters for collecting the duty on ardent Spirits and Stills.

At all times it would give me pleasure, as far as is consistent with my public duty, to comply with any request or wish of yours. To fill offices with characters best qualified to discharge the duties thereof (as far as I am able to judge of them) must always be the primary motive to every appointment with me. When, happily, such considerations as you have urged in favor of Mr. Norton[20] can be combined therewith it would be highly pleasing to my mind to give them their due weight. But, as I have just observed, measures had been taken previous to the receipt of either of your letters for fixing on proper persons as receivers of the above duties; how far the choice of them is made I am unable to inform you. Mrs. Washington, I can answer for it, will be much pleased by your friendly recollection of her; and if we should once more enjoy in retirement this peaceful mansion, it would add to the pleasures of it to see you

[18] In the writing of William Jackson in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[19] Hannah Fairfax, youngest daughter of William Fairfax, and widow of Warner Washington.

[20] George F. Norton, of Winchester, Va. His application for appointment is in the *Applications for Office under Washington* in the Library of Congress.

under its roof. I will not conclude without offering my condolence on the occasion of your late loss,[21] and the strongest assurances of the affecte. regard, with which I am etc.[22]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, April 1, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 27th. ultimo, was received last evening. Your proceeding upon the intelligence therein contained (which I think truly alarming)[23] meets my entire approbation, and appears to promise as good effects as the limited sphere of action, allotted to the general government, in cases so deeply affecting its dignity and the happiness of the citizens, will allow.

Should you suppose that additional instructions to General St. Clair, or any other measures within the reach of propriety, may have a tendency to appease the friends of the murdered Indians, I wish you to confer with the Heads of departments, and to carry into immediate effect the result of your deliberations.

The letters which have already been written to you, on the subject of officering the Maryland and Virginia battalions of levies will shew the difficulties produced by Colonel Lee's[24] declining; and the necessity of exertion to repair the delay which it must occasion.

I shall endeavour to obtain information of some officers for the Virginia battalion; but it will not be possible for me to act upon it until I learn what may be determined between you and

[21] The death of Warner Washington in the year 1790.

[22] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[23] A party of Virginians under Captain Brady killed 4 or 5 trading Indians near the mouth of Raccoon Creek. As a consequence the frontier was alarmed and many of the settlers were abandoning their homes.

[24] Col. Henry Lee ("Light Horse Harry"). The correspondence concerning Lee's declination was carried on by William Jackson in his capacity of secretary to the President.

Colonel Hall;[25] indeed it is my wish as it regards dispatch, that your determination may render any future interference on my part unnecessary.

To prevent clashing in the measures we may adopt to officer the battalion of this State, if any thing satisfactory results from my enquiry, I will give immediate information of it. I am etc.[26]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, April 1, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 27th. ult. with the papers which accompanied it. Referring to your judgment whether a commission, similar to that intended for Mr. Barclay,[27] may be given without the agency of the Senate, I return both papers to you signed, in order that the one you deem most proper may be used.

Your opinions respecting the acts of force which have already taken place, or may yet take place on our boundaries, meets my concurrence, as the safest mode of compelling propositions to an amicable settlement; and it may answer a good purpose to have them suggested in the way you mention.[28] Should this matter assume a serious aspect during my absence I beg you to communicate particulars with all possible despatch.

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[25] Col. Josias Carvil Hall.

[26] The draft is in the writing of William Jackson.

[27] Thomas Barclay. His commission conferred on him the rank of consul. He carried with him a letter to the Emperor of Morocco which Sparks prints under date of March 31. It was merely the usual form of a letter of credence prepared by the Department of State, and as it is not, strictly speaking, any more of a Washington document than dozens of other formal papers prepared for the President's signature, it is omitted here.

[28] Jefferson's opinion was that any acts of force by the British authorities to remove American settlers from their homes on the northeastern and northwestern frontiers, a direct consequence, in the northwestern area, of the British refusal to evacuate the western posts, should be met by force, and that the settlers should ask the aid of the neighboring militia.

The most superb edifices may be erected, and I shall wish their inhabitants much happiness, and that too very disinterestedly, as I shall never be of the number myself.

It will be fortunate for the American public if private Speculations in the lands, still claimed by the Aborigines, do not aggrevate those differences, which policy, humanity, and justice concur to deprecate.[29]

I am much indebted to your kind concern for my safety in travelling; no accident has yet happened either from the high hanging of the carriage, or the mode of driving. The latter I must continue as my Postilion (Giles) is still too much indisposed to ride the journey. It occurs to me that you may not have adverted to Judge Putnam's[30] being in the Western Country at present. Perhaps General Knox can furnish you with the maps you want, or they may be found among those that are in my study in Philadelphia.

I expect to leave Mount Vernon, in prosecution of my Southern tour, on tuesday or wednesday next; I shall halt one day at Fredericksburgh and two at Richmond; thence I shall proceed to Charlestown by the way of Petersburg, Halifax, Tarborough, Newbern, Wilmington, and George Town, without making any halts between Richmond and Charleston but such as may be necessary to accommodate my journey. I am sincerely and affectionately etc.[31]

[29] Jefferson had written (March 27): "You Know of Mr. R. Morris's purchase of Gorham and Phelps of 1,300,000 acres of land of the state of Massachusetts, at 5d. an acre. it is said that he has sold 1,200,000 acres of these in Europe thro' the agency of W. Franklin, who it seems went on this business conjointly with that of printing his grand father's works. Mr. Morris, under the name of Ogden, and perhaps in partnership with him has brought the residue of the lands held in the same country by Massachusetts, for 100,000 £. the Indian title of the former purchase has been extinguished by Gorham, but that of the latter is not. perhaps it cannot be. in that case a similarity of interest will produce an alliance with the Yazoo companies. perhaps a sale might be made in Europe to purchasers ignorant of the Indian right." A press copy of the original is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress."

[30] Rufus Putnam.

[31] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

Mount Vernon, April 1, 1791.

Gentn: Being accustomed to write to you respecting the grounds for the fedl. City, I continue the practice.

It may be tuesday or wednesday next before I shall leave this place, by which (say by mondays Post) I should be glad to hear what progress has been made, and what still remains to be done, in the business which so happily commenced on tuesday last under the accommodating spirit which then prevailed.[32]

The Subscription paper has been, I presume, deposited in the hands of the Commissioners, for the purpose of drawing conveyances. I should be glad nevertheless to receive a copy of it, with the names of the Subscribers annexed thereto for my own satisfaction. The general tenor of the agreement was I well remember pleasing to me, and, in my opinion reciprocally beneficial to *all* the parties, but I do not now recollect with precision whether is is fully expressed that the lots left to the disposal of the several proprietors, by the conditions of their grants, are subject to *all* the rules and regulations (with respect to the buildings &ca. &ca.) as the public ones are. This unquestionably ought to be the case; it was evidently my meaning that they *should* be so, and unless it is so, one of the great objects, to wit, uniformity and beauty, may be defeated.

The Mail of Wednesday brought me a letter from Mr. Jefferson dated the 27th. Ulto. in which is the following paragraph.

[32] Georgetown and Carrollsburg were contending for the location of seat of government. Washington's "Diary" (March 30) records: "The parties to whom I addressed myself yesterday evening, having taken the matter into consideration saw the propriety of my observations; and that whilst they were contending for the shadow they might loose the substance; and therefore mutually agreed and entered into articles to surrender for public purposes, one half of the land they severally possessed within bounds which were designated as necessary for the City to stand with some other stipulations, which were inserted in the instrument which they respectively subscribed."

A bill was yesterday ordered to be brought into the house of representatives here[33] for granting a sum of money for building a federal-hall, house for the President &ca.

This (though I do not wish that it should be expressed as my sentiment) unfolds most evidently the views of P——,[34] at the sametime that it proves in a striking manner the propriety of the measure adopted by the George town and Carrollsburgh proprietors on wednesday last; as also the necessity of their *compleating* the good work they have begun in a speedy, and in an effectual manner that the consequent arrangements may take place without delay. With esteem and regard I am etc.[35]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, April 3, 1791.

Gentlemen: As the Instrument which was subscribed at George Town, by the Land holders in the vicinity of that place and Carrollsburg, was not given to me, I presume it has been deposited with you. It is of the greatest moment to close this business with the Proprietors of the lands on which the federal City is to be, that consequent arrangements may be made without more delay than can be avoided.

The form of the conveyances as drawn by the Attorney General will, I presume, require alteration, or a counterpart, as the present agreement essentially differs from the former. If Mr. Johnson could, conveniently undertake to prepare such a deed as he thinks would answer all the purposes, of the public and the Grantees, I am sure it would be efficiently done. If this

[33] House of Representatives of Pennsylvania.
[34] Pennsylvania.
[35] From the draft in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

cannot be, then it might be well to furnish the Attorney-General of the United States with a copy of the agreement, with the papers I left with you, and such other information as will enable him to do it.

To accomplish this matter so as that the Sales of the lots, the public buildings, &c. may commence with as much facility as the nature of the case will admit, would be, I conceive, advisable under any circumstances; perhaps the friends of the measure may think it materially so from the following extract of a letter from Mr. Jefferson to me, dated the 27th. Ult.

A Bill was yesterday ordered to be brought into the House of Representatives here for granting a sum of money for building a federal-hall house of the President &c.

This (though I do not want any sentiment of mine promulgated with respect to it) marks unequivocally in my mind, the designs of that state; and the necessity of exertion to carry the Residence Law into effect agreeably thereto. With great and sincere esteem etc.[36]

To WILLIAM TILGHMAN[37]

Mount Vernon, April 3, 1791.

Sir: The enclosed letters contain all the information I can give respecting the proceedings of Colvil's executors against Mr. Sidney George. It will appear from these (as I think I mentioned to you) that the bond had been considered as lost, and that the only resort, in case of non-payment, was to a Court of Chancery. Whether such a suit was instituted by Mr. Chalmers is more than I am able to inform you, or whether any

[36] From *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

[37] Of Chestertown, Md.

further correspondence took place between Mr. West and him, does not appear from any papers I possess or have access to.

It will be recollected that our dispute with G. Britain commenced soon after the interchange of the enclosed letters, and that the Courts of justice were long shut up. During this period Mr. John West, the acting Executor, died; Mrs. Francine Colvil, executrix of the will, having died before him. By these events I became the *only* surviving Executor, and it must be noticed that from the year 1774, until the close of the war I was from home, and unable to give attention to this or any other private concern. That, previous thereto, the execution of the will rested nearby, if not wholly, upon Mr. John West, and that it is but lately that the bond has been recovered.

Under these circumstances I pray you to apply to the Representative of Mr. Sidney George for payment of it, and, in case of refusal to bring suit thereon that, in any event, my administration in this particular may stand justified.

Through any channel you may direct, your fee and the cost of suit shall be paid. I am etc.[38]

*To BATTAILE MUSE

Mount Vernon, April 3, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 20th. of Jany. came duly to hand, but at a time when public business pressed so heavily upon me that I could give no attention to private concerns.

I am sorry to hear of Mr. Hickman's loss and in consequence of it, remit his last years Rent. Buying and selling of leases with as much facility as one would do a horse or an Oxe, does not comport with my ideas of the improvement of the land, and for that reason it was, that the practice is guarded against.

[38] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

However, in the case of Mr. Hickman, if the purchaser is a person of good character, and in appearance likely to answer my purposes as well as the prest. occupier, I shall not object to the transfer. Mr. Hickman in his application to me, does not ask to be released from the transfer Rent, nor do I see upon what ground he could, as it will fall more upon the purchaser than seller; yet, if there is anything in the case to make it necessary, I will not object to it. I am etc.[39]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, April 3, 1791.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you, from George Town; I have, I believe, received your letters of the 23d, 24th, and 27th ult.

Whether a certain Gentleman[40] is the man I conceived him to be, or such a one as is hinted at in the letter you enclosed me, is not yet certain; but, admitting the latter, it is too late to look back. I cannot be in a less productive situation by the engagement than I was; the principal disadvantage resulting from it will be, that I can never count upon the payments until they are actually made; consequently, can never speculate upon the money which I wished to have made. If I recollect rightly, there is something in Colo. Cannons letter (transmitted to you) concerning the Kanhaway lands; if it is indicative of an intention to let them, or, that he conceives himself empowered to do it, I desire you will inform him of the Sale of them.[41]

[39] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by William Smith Mason, of Evanston, Ill.

[40] Probably Monsieur De Barth.

[41] On April 9 Lear answered Cannon's letter of March 17 that the President was "apprehensive that you might give some encouragement" to people who had applied to go upon his Ohio and Kanahwa lands. "He has therefore directed me to inform you that he has disposed of all those lands which he possessed on those rivers and requests that no steps be taken to engage settlers to go there on his account." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

You did well in forwarding the letters from the Western territory, although they were, upon opening of them, found to be laws only.

Until we can restrain the turbulence and disorderly conduct of our own borderers it will be in vain I fear to expect peace with the Indians, or that they will govern their own people better than we do our's.

Mr. Jefferson's ideas with respect to the dispatches for me, is a very good one, and I desire it may be put into execution. I send you some letters to file, not finding it convenient to be encumbered with them on my journey. My best wishes attend Mrs. Lear and I am etc.[42]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1791.

Dear Sir: You will readily agree with me that the best interests of the United States require such an intimation to be made to the Governor of Canada, either directly or indirectly, as may produce instructions to prevent the Indians receiving military aid or supplies from the british posts or garrisons. The notoriety of this assistance has already been such as renders enquiry into particulars unnecessary. Colonel Beckwith seems peculiarly designated to be the channel of an indirect intimation. Referring the mode and extent of communicating with him to your own discretion, I wish it may be suggested in such manner as to reach Lord Dorchester, or the Officer commanding in Canada, that certain information has been received of large supplies of ammunition being delivered to the hostile Indians, from british posts, about the commencement of last campaign.

[42] The text is from the *Letters from George Washington to Tobias Lear* (Bixby Collection, Rochester: 1905).

And, as the United States have no other view in prosecuting the present war against the Indians, than, in the failure of negociation, to procure, by arms, peace and safety to the inhabitants of their frontier, they are equally surprised and disappointed at such an interference by the servants or subjects of a foreign State, as seems intended to protract the attainment of so just and reasonable an object.

These are my sentiments on this subject at the present moment; yet so unsettled do some circumstances appear that it is possible you may see a necessity either to treat it very delicately or to decline acting on it altogether. The option is therefore left to your judgment as events may make the one or the other the part of propriety. The enclosed paper is transmitted and referred to you in the state I received it. I am &c.[43]

To WILLIAM DARKE[44]

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1791.

Dear Sir: The purport of this letter is to request your service in a matter of immediate importance to the United States; my knowledge of your public dispositions assures me, that it will receive your ready attention. I shall premise its object by informing you that in pursuance of an act of the last session of Congress an additional military force consisting of one regular regiment, two regiments of levies for six months, and such a proportion of militia as may be thought necessary are ordered to be raised for the service of the United States, to be employed, unless the measures now taking to restore peace should make it

[43] In the writing of William Jackson in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. Ford and Sparks date this April 3.

[44] Formerly lieutenant colonel of the Fourth Virginia Regiment, Continental Army; later lieutenant colonel of Kentucky Militia on St. Clair's expedition. Sparks prints this letter as to John Darke.

unnecessary, in an expedition against certain tribes of western Indians.

The command in chief is given to General St. Clair; that of the levies to General Butler;[45] and that of the militia to General Scott.[46] The command of one regiment of levies, to consist of three battalions, to be raised in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, was given to Colonel H. Lee, and, on his declining, before I adverted to the idea of appointing you, Colonel Hall was, on the suggestion of the Secretary of war, named to succeed him; should Colonel Hall decline it is my wish that you would accept the command of the regiment; and that, in the meantime whether you enter into the service or not yourself, you would be so good as, immediately on the receipt of this letter, which will be your authority for so doing, to appoint from among the Gentlemen that are known to you, and whom you would recommend as proper characters, and think likely to recruit their men, three persons as Captains, three as Lieutenants, and three as Ensigns in the battalion of levies to be raised in the State of Virginia, for the service of the United States, for the term of six months, after arriving at their place of rendezvous. That you would instruct the said officers immediately to set about engaging recruits who may be ready, on the order of the Secretary of war, or the Commandant of the battalion, to embody and march to the place of rendezvous. Enclosed is a statement of the pay, clothing, forage, and rations to be allowed to the Levies.

My confidence in your ability and disposition to render that service to the public which I now request of you, persuades me that you will immediately appoint three Captains, three Lieu-

[45] Maj. Gen. Richard Butler, of the United States Levies.
[46] Brig. Gen. Charles Scott.

tenants, and three Ensigns, so well qualified for their several trusts that these companies of the Virginia battalion of levies will be recruited without delay, and ready to repair to their rendezvous by the time that the order for so doing is received either from the Secretary of war, or the Commandant of the battalion. You will be pleased to make a return of the officers, whom you appoint, to General Knox at Philadelphia, and signify at the same time your own determination with respect to accepting the command if Colonel Hall should have declined.

I am thus far on a tour through the southern States, and a press of business only allows me time to repeat my belief that you will complete this matter in a manner highly honorable to yourself and beneficial to the public. I am &c.

P. S. Should there be any officers of the late army, whom you think in all other respects equal to the appointments I wish them to be preferred; but the substantial requisites of being proper for the service, and likely to recruit their men, must ever be held in view and they must be raised on your side of the river.[47]

*To PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1791.

Sir: Although I do not conceive that you will derive any material advantage from an examination of the enclosed papers, yet, as they have been drawn by different persons, and under different circumstances, they may be compared with your own ideas of a proper plan for the Federal City (under the prospect which now presents itself to us.) For this purpose I commit them to your *private* inspection until my return from

[47] On April 4 Washington wrote briefly to the Secretary of War, that he had authorized Darke to make the appointments. This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

the tour I am abt. to make. The rough sketch[48] by Mr. Jefferson was done under an idea that *no* offer, worthy of consideration, would come from the Land holders in the vicinity of Carrollsburg (from the backwardness which appeared in them); and therefore, was accommodated to the grounds about George Town. The *other,* is taken up upon a larger scale, without referrence to any described spot.

It will be of great importance to the public interest to comprehend as much ground (to be ceded by individuals) as there is any tolerable prospect of obtaining. Although it may not be *immediately* wanting, it will nevertheless encrease the Revenue; and of course be benificial hereafter, not only to the public, but to the individual proprietors; in as much, as the plan will be enlarged, and thereby freed from those blotches, which otherwise might result from not comprehending *all* the lands that appear well adapted to the general design; and which, in my opinion, are those between Rock Creek, the Potowmac river and the Eastern branch, and as far up the latter as the turn of the channel above Evans' point; thence including the flat back of Jenkins's height; thence to the Road leading from George Town to Bladensburgh, as far Easterly along the same as to include the branch which runs across it, somewhere near the exterior of the George Town cession; thence in a proper direction to Rock Creek at, or above the ford, according to the situation of the ground. Within these limits there may be lands belonging to persons *incapacitated,* though *willing* to convey on the terms proposed; but such had better be included, than others excluded, the proprietors of which are not only willing, but in circumstances to subscribe. I am etc.[49]

[48] A press copy of this sketch is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. It is reproduced in W. B. Bryan's *History of the National Capital* (New York: 1914), vol. 1, p. 130, under the misleading caption of "Jefferson's Plan of the Mall."

[49] From the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE SECRETARIES OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, TREASURY, AND WAR

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1791.

Gentlemen: As the public service may require that communications should be made to me, during my absence from the seat of government, by the most direct conveyances; and as, in the event of any very extraordinary occurrence, it will be necessary to know at what time I may be found in any particular place, I have to inform you that unless the progress of my journey to Savannah is retarded by unforeseen interruptions it will be regulated (including days of halt) in the following manner. I shall be

on the 8th. of April at Fredericksburg
11th —— Richmond
14th —— Petersburg
16th —— Halifax
18th —— Tarborough
20th. —— Newbern
24th. —— Wilmington
29th. —— Georgetown, South-Carolina
2nd of May——Charleston, halting five days.
11th.——Savannah, halting two days.

Thence, leaving the line of the mail, I shall proceed to Augusta, and, according to the information which I may receive there, my return, by an upper road will be regulated.

The route of my return is at present uncertain, but in all probability, it will be through Columbia, Camden, Charlotte, Salisbury, Salem, Guilford, Hillsborough, Harrisburg, Williamsburg to Taylor's ferry on the Roanoke, and thence to Fredericksburg by the nearest and best road.

After thus explaining to you, as far as I am able at present, the direction and probable progress of my journey, I have to express my wish, if any serious and important cases should

arise during my absence, (of which the probability is but too strong) that the Secretaries for the Departments of State, Treasury, and War may hold consultations thereon, to determine whether they are of such a nature as to require my personal attendance at the seat of government; and, if they should be so considered, I will return immediately from any place at which the information may reach me. Or should they determine that measures, relevant to the case, may be legally and properly pursued without the immediate agency of the President, I will approve and ratify the measures, which may be conformed to such determination.

Presuming that the Vice-President will have left the seat of government for Boston, I have not requested his opinion to be taken on the supposed emergency; should it be otherwise I wish him also to be consulted. I am etc.[50]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 27th. Ult came duly to hand. For the information contained in it, and for the notes which accompanied the same, I thank you.

Every expedient, as I believe you know, is in operation to avert a War with the hostile Indian tribes, and to keep those who are in treaty with us in good temper; but I am nearly thoroughly convinced that neither will be effected, or, if effected, will be of short duration while land jobbing and the disorderly conduct of our borderers is suffered with impunity; and whilst the States individually are omitting no occasion to interfere in matters which belong to the general Government.

It is not more than four or five months since the Six Nations or part of them were assured (through the medium of Colo.

[50] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Pickering) that thence forward they would be spoken to by the Government of the United States *only* and the same thing was repeated in strong terms to the Cornplanter at Philadelphia afterwards. Now, as appears by the extract from Mr. King, the Legislature of New York are going into some negotiations with these very people. What must this evince to them? Why, that we pursue no system, and that our declarations are not to be regard. [*sic*] To sum the whole up in a few words: the interferences of States, and the speculations of Individuals will be the bane of all our public measures.[51] Sincerely and Affectionately I am etc.

To EDWARD CARRINGTON

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1791.

Sir: I shall be at Richmond on the 11th. instant, where I desire to have the pleasure of meeting you on that day, to take measures for arranging the Inspectorates of the district of Virginia of which you have been appointed Supervisor.

To ensure certainty to the transmission of this letter it is enclosed to Governor Randolph, who is requested to forward it by express, if not direct conveyance offers immediately. I am etc.[52]

[51] John C. Hamilton prints the following portion of Hamilton's reply to this letter, dating it April 10: "It is to be lamented, that our system is such as still to leave the public peace of the Union at the mercy of each State government. This is not only the case as it regards direct interferences, but as it regards the inability of the national government, in many particulars, to take those direct measures for carrying into execution its views and engagements which exigences require. For example; a party comes from a county of Virginia into Pennsylvania, and wantonly murders some friendly Indians. The national government, instead of having power to apprehend the murderers and bring them to justice, is obliged to make a representation to that of Pennsylvania; that of Pennsylvania again is to make a representation to that of Virginia. And whether the murderers shall be brought to justice at all, must depend upon the particular policy and energy and good disposition of two State governments, and the efficacy of the provisions of their respective laws; and the security of other States, and the money of all, are at the discretion of one. These things require a remedy." Hamilton's letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*, and no copy or draft is found in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[52] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, April 6, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 31st. Ult. and 1st. instant have been received. Tomorrow I continue my journey. A request of General Knox's (consequent of Colo. Lee's declining his appointment) to name officers for the Battn. of Levies to be raised in Berkeley &ca. has prevented its being done sooner.

I am perfectly satisfied that every necessary and proper step will be taken to procure a good Steward, and a good House keeper; and therefore shall add nothing further on this head. Let the man who is at work in the Garden, or has been there, be paid. I mean to be under no obligation to anyone.

The pad arrived in good time, and I expect my horses (as they seem well recruited) will go on better than they have come. I send more letters to be filed. My best wishes attend Mrs. Lear and the Child, and I am etc.[53]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1791.

Dear Sir: Judging it necessary, before I left Mount Vernon, which I shall do this morning, to place the organization of the Virginia battalion of Levies on a certainty, I have devolved on [delivered to] Colonel Darck, who lives near Shepperds town in Berkley County, an authority to appoint all the officers, and, when appointed, to direct the Major to repair immediately to Philadelphia, to receive your instructions; and the Captains and Subalterns to commence the recruiting service.

[53] From a facsimile of the original in Stephen Decatur's *Private Affairs of George Washington* (Boston: 1933).

Your further instructions, on this subject, you will either communicate to Colonel Darck by letter, or forward to him by the Major when he waits on you.

If Colonel Hall declines, and Colonel Darck agrees to accept † the command of the regiment, everything will be in a regular train of settlement with Colonel Darck; but, if he should not enter into the service himself, I have directed him to report his expences in this business to you, and I have to request that his accounts may be examined and paid.

Should neither of these Gentn. agree to command the regiment, I wish you to appoint some other person, the best qualified, who will accept.

Your letter of the 1st. instt. to Major Jackson is recd; a summary of what has been written to Col. Darck will be communicated to Genl. Butler for his government, in a letter, this morning. I am etc.[54]

To WILLIAM DARKE

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1791.

Dear Sir: A second necessity having arisen for my troubling you on the subject of officering the Virginia battalion of levies, I again beg leave to request your assistance therein.

I had written to Major Powell, who lives about six miles from Alexandria, informing him of his appointment to the majority

[54] The draft is in the writing of William Jackson.

On April 7 Washington wrote practically this same letter, down to the †, to Maj. Gen. Richard Butler, and added: "I have given this information to you to prevent any clashing in the measures which might be adopted to officer the battalion, and as it may be best that you should see Colonel Darke as soon as you have finished what remains to be done in Maryland, I have informed him that you are on the way through Maryland to Virginia for the purpose of completing the arrangements of both battalions, informing him that he is in the meantime to continue the service which I have requested him to perform." This addition, together with the letter to Butler, was forwarded in the care of Otho Holland Williams, with a brief note to the latter, dated April 7, and is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

of the battalion, and requesting to see him at Mount Vernon immediately, but he has not appeared nor have I heard from him, which leads me to conclude he cannot be found.

The necessity of placing this business upon a certainty before I proceed on my journey to Savannah which I shall do today, induces me to refer it entirely to you.

You will therefore, in addition to the appointments, which, in consequence of my first letter, you may have already made, be pleased to appoint a proper person to be Major Commandant of the battalion, another Captain, one lieutenant, and one Ensign.

The enclosed gazette contains the law for raising the Troops, which shews that a bounty of three dollars a man is allowed to the levies. This encouragement in aid of the pay, rations, and clothing, of which I enclosed to you an abstract, induces me to hope that the recruiting service will go on briskly. The Virginia-battalion will be ordered to rendezvous at Winchester, where supplies of arms, ammunitions, clothing, and rations will be provided for them. On this subject further instructions will be given by the Secretary of war, to whom I have communicated the authority which I have devolved on you to appoint all the officers of the battalion, and to instruct them, when appointed, to enter on the recruiting service.

Should Colonel Hall decline his appointment, and you agree to accept the command of the regiment, the repayment of expence, which you may incur in this business, will be in a regular train. But, should you not enter into the service yourself, you will, in that case, transmit your account to the Secretary of war, who will be instructed to discharge it.

As a battalion is recruiting in Maryland, it will be necessary, to prevent interference, that the Virginia levies should be raised on your side of the river, and, to effect this with facility, you

may find it necessary to appoint the officers from different districts, but, of this, being on the spot, you will be the best judge. And to your care and zeal I refer, with confidence, the whole arrangement, not doubting that your report of it to the Secretary of War will be perfectly satisfactory.

Major Bedinger's name[55] presents itself to my mind, and therefore I just mention it to you. As without men the officers will not be wanted, you will be pleased to inform them that the confirmation of their appointments must necessarily depend on them being able to raise the men.

You will instruct the Gentleman, who is appointed Major-Commandant of the battalion, to repair immediately to Philadelphia to receive the orders of the Secretary of War.

Major General Butler, who, in my former letter, I informed you is appointed to command all the levies, is now on his way, through Maryland, to Virginia to close all the arrangements respecting them, he will of course see you, but I request that this circumstance may in no degree delay the measures I have requested you to take for organising the battalion. The only change necessary is that you should direct the Major to see General Butler before he goes to Philadelphia, as that may make his going unnecessary.

Should Captain Hannah be the Bearer of this letter, you will please to appoint him to one of the companies, allowing him to appoint his own subalterns, and they will recruit the company perhaps in the neighbourhood of Alexandria.

Should the letter be delivered to you by an Express you will then proceed to make all the appointments as you think proper.

With great regard and esteem I am etc.[56]

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[55] George Michael Bedinger. He was appointed major of the Virginia Levies in place of ——— Powell; major, U. S. Army, in 1792; resigned in February, 1793.

[56] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To GEORGE AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Dumfries, Friday, 10 Oclock, April 8, 1791.

Dear George: I am just setting out from this place, having arrived safe at it an hour ago. Since I spoke to Cornelias this morning I have thought it best that the gable ends of the Green house should be carried up as if intended (as they are begun) for Chimneys hereafter, the unfavourable appearance will not add much to what is already seen of the design; and the convenience, if it shall hereafter be found necessary to add to the building, will be very great.

I have also determined, on reflection, to sow only Timothy Seed on the rye in the Neck. So soon therefore as the quantity necessary for that field which is now sowing at Morris's, can be ascertained, all the residue may be sent to Davy; and the sooner the better, before the ground gets hard again. He knows where and how it is to be sown. In front of the House I shall put Red clover and Orchard grass mixed; and if seed enough about 10 lbs of the first and half a bushel of the latter to the Acre. My love to all at home. I have heard nothing more yet from Fredg. Yrs. Affectly. [N.Y.H.S.]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA[57]

Richmond, April 13, 1791.

Gentlemen: Agreeably to the assurance given to Mr. Carroll, I applied, immediately upon my arrival in this city, to

Washington reached Fredericksburg April 8, and on April 9 received and answered an address from the corporation of the town. Both the address and answer are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On April 12, in Richmond, Washington received and answered an address from the mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city. Both the address and answer are recorded in the "Letter Book."

[57] Thomas Johnson, David Stuart, and Daniel Carroll.

Governor Randolph for two thousand dollars for federal purposes under your direction. Although by the law of this State, the payments of the one hundred and twenty thousand dollars are to be made by installments, the Governor is well disposed to advance the money at earlier periods; but alas! the treasury is empty. He has promised me however that, so soon as he can obtain the above sum, it shall be remitted or made subject to your draught.

My anxiety to have the agreement which was entered into at Georgetown on the 30th. ult. carried into full and complete effect, by legal conveyances, is such (thereby leaving nothing to chance) that I cannot forbear repeating my wish that it may be done without delay, notwithstanding the persuasion I am under that the propriety of the measure will prompt you to the execution of the business in a manner best calculated to answer the public purposes.

It having been intimated to me that the Proprietors of George Town are desirous of being comprehended within the limits of the federal city, I see no objection to the measure provided the Landholders, adjoining to it, included within the red lines of Messrs. Beatty and Orme's Survey,[58] referred to in the first offer from George Town, agree to cede to the public on the same terms with those under the last (or combined) agreement; and if those within the blue lines are likewise desirous of being comprehended, on the same terms, it may be done. The doing of which would only place them on the same footing with the rest of the Subscribers, at the same time that it would render the plan more comprehensive, beneficial, and promising, drawing the centre of the federal city near to the present town.

[58] Charles Beatty and Archibald Orme.

If this measure is seriously contemplated the present is the fit moment for carrying it into effect; because, in that case it will become part of the original plan, and the old and new towns would be blended and assimilated as nearly as circumstances will admit; and Major L'Enfant might be instructed to lay out the whole accordingly. I have the honor etc.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing I have again conversed with Governor Randolph, and have drawn upon him, payable to your order, for forty thousand dollars, being the first installment; one thousand of which he hopes to have ready within a few days, the remainder to be subject to your draughts. He will endeavor to transmit the money so as to prevent trouble or inconvenience; but, on this head he will write to you himself more at large.[59]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Richmond, April 13, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 2d. came to my hands at this place. Part of it did as you supposed and might well suppose, astonished [*sic*] me exceedingly. I think it not only right that Mr. Carmichael should be furnished with a copy of the genuine letters to Mr. G. Morris, but that Mr. [Morris] should also know the result of his conferences with the Duke of Leeds[60] at the Court of Madrid. The contents of my official letters to him you are acquainted with; my private ones were few, and nothing in any of them relative England or Spain; how it comes to pass therefore that such interpretations as the extracts recite, should be given, he best can account for.

[59] In the writing of William Jackson, in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

[60] Count Florida Blanca is meant. The several pen inadvertencies in this letter is evidence of the hurry with which it was written.

Being hurried, I shall only add that I shall proceed on my journey tomorrow, and from good information have a dreary one before me in some parts thereof. Yrs. etc.

P. S. The footing upon which you have placed Mr. Carmichael is good.[61]

To GOVERNOR BEVERLEY RANDOPLH

Richmond, April 14, 1791.

Sir: The Secretary of War having transmitted to me a copy of your Excellency's letter to him, relative to the protection of the frontier counties of Virginia, with his answer thereto; I have now to observe that the Counties of Russell and Wythe, not having been considered as equally exposed with the others, were not included in the arrangements taken for defending the frontier. But as the protection to be afforded was intended to embrace every county that might be exposed to inroad or invasion, if it shall appear to your Excellency a necessary measure, I request that you will be pleased to direct such an extension of the defence as will cover these counties, and place them in equal security with the others.

Should it comport with the State of your Treasury to make an advance of Two thousand dollars, of the sum appropriated by the State of Virginia for federal purposes on the Potowmac, I beg that an intimation thereof may be given to Mr. Johnston, Doctor Stuart, and Mr. Daniel Carroll, who are the Commissioners, and who will take measures, in consequence, for drawing the money. This supply is very essential, and requires that

[61] From the original in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On April 14 Washington received and answered an address from the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and common council of Petersburg. Both address and answer are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

the earliest intimation, which the state of the funds will allow, should be given to the Commissioners. I have the honor etc.[62]

[H.S.P.]

To WILLIAM TATHAM[63]

Richmond, April 14, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letters numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4 Thanking you for your attention in presenting to me a copy of your map, and wishing you the best success in completing that in which you are now engaged, I return the subscription papers, with my name affixed for a copy of each map, on which, the money to be advanced, will now be paid, and I have to observe that there appears to me greater propriety in your pursuing the plan, on which it was originally undertaken, than in adopting any other.

My tour through the southern States, being in the nature of a short visit, will not require the assistance, which you are so obliging as to offer; my public situation forbids any interference in questions of individual claims otherwise than as they may come before me officially in the form of an act of Congress. This will be satisfactory to you for my declining to direct any investigation of the vouchers which you mention. I am etc.[64]

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[62] In the writing of William Jackson.

[63] Of Richmond, Va.

[64] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On April 14 Washington wrote to a Mr. Brown respecting the purchase of George Muse's right to 7,276 acres of land, granted in 1774. As there must have been some inducement to take the subsequent deeds in 1784 I am inclined, though unable to account for them, to have them fully recorded; especially as the quantity of land thereby conveyed differs pretty considerably." This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On April 15 the citizens of the town of Fayetteville, N. C., despatched an address to Washington, who received and answered it at some unknown date and place in the State. Both the address and the answer are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On April 20 Washington reached Newbern, N. C., and on that day received and answered an address from the Newbern St. John's Lodge, No. 2, of Masons. Both address and answer are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

*To EDMUND PENDLETON

Petersburgh, April 14, 1791.

My dear Sir: The letter with which you were pleased to favor me, dated the 9th. instt, overtook me at Littlepages bridge the 11th. The hurry into which I was thrown by a variety of occurrences at Richmond, prevented my acknowledging the receipt of it before I left that City. I now do it, with assurances that it gave me sincere pleasure to find by it that you were well.

The *general* arrangement of the Surveys of Inspection for this District, and the characters designated for the collection of duties, had, in a great measure, been previously made before I came into this State. I have, however, desired the Supervisor to make the best provision he can for Mr. Norton in the subordinate distribution of the Offices, if an appointment of this sort should meet his approbation. With sincere esteem, etc.

[MS. H. S.]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Newburn, No. Cara., April 21, 1791.

Dear Sir: Not having heard from you since I wrote you from Richmond, the purpose of this is only to let you know where we are and to cover the enclosed for Mrs. Washington.

We have, all things considered, come on tolerably well; yet, some of the horses, especially the two last bought, are not a little worsted by their journey; and the whole, if brought back, will not cut capers as they did at starting out.

I came to this place yesterday and shall proceed on tomorrow. Wilmington, 100 miles from hence, will be my next halting place; from whence, if the Post of this evening brings letters to me, they will be answered; for there will be no time to do it

here; as not more than an hour is allowed him to stay here. My best wishes to Mrs. Lear. I am etc.

P. S. The Post is just arrived without any letters for me.[65]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Charleston, May 7, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letters of the 11th and 14th of last month. Concluding from Mr. Shorts statement of his negotia-

[65] From a copy kindly furnished by Richard Eyre, of New York City, who owns the original.

On April 21 Washington received and answered an address of the inhabitants of the town of Newbern. Both address and answer are recorded in the "Letter Book."

On April 22 Washington left Newbern and dined the same day at Trenton. In the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress is an address from King Solomon's Lodge of Masons at Trenton, but no record of an answer thereto has been found in those papers.

On April 24 Washington arrived at Wilmington. William Jackson wrote from Wilmington to an unidentified gentleman in Charleston, S C., who was, probably, Arnoldus Vanderhorst, acknowledging his letter of April 2.

"The President of the U. S., to whom I have communicated its contents, directs me, as it relates to him to express to you, and through you, to the Citizens of south Carolina, the sensibility with which he learns their intention to receive and to accommodate him; he adds that no subsequent circumstance can lessen his sense of their goodness on this occasion. But as the uncertainty of his arrival at any given place is greatly encreased by the deep sandy roads, which he is to encounter with horses some what exhausted, he is not able to say more than that he will leave Wilmington on tuesday morning, and proceed towards Charleston as fast as may consist with convenience and good speed.

"The President's uniform determination to decline private invitations to quarters, which is founded on the desire of avoiding to give inconvenience to private families prevails over his wish to benefit from the hospitality to which your letter alludes. He desires me to express his particular obligations to your care in procuring lodgings for him, and to present to you his respects." Jackson's draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

On April 25 Washington received and answered an address from the inhabitants of the town. Both the address and the answer are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

Washington left Wilmington April 26 and reached Georgetown, S. C., April 30. He received and answered on this day addresses from the inhabitants of Georgetown and its vicinity, and from Prince George's Lodge, No. 16, of Masons. These addresses and answers are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

Washington arrived at Charleston, May 2. On May 3 he received and answered addresses from the intendant and wardens, representatives of the citizens, and from the merchants of Charleston. These addresses and answers are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

During Washington's stay in Charleston he received an address from the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of South Carolina. His answer, a draft in the writing of William Jackson, is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers;* but no text of the address has been found therein.

tion in Amsterdam, and from the opinions offered in your letter of the 11th, that the loan has been obtained on the best terms practicable, and that its application in the manner you propose will be the most advantageous to the United States, I do hereby signify my approbation of what has been already done, as communicated in your letters of the 11th. and 14th. of April. Assenting to the further progress of the loans as recommended by you in these letters, I request that instructions may be given for completing them agreeably thereto. I am &c.[66]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Charleston, May 7, 1791.

Gentlemen: I have received your letter of the 14th. of last month.

It is an unfortunate circumstance in the present stage of the business, relative to the federal city, that difficulties unforeseen and unexpected should arise to darken, perhaps to destroy, the fair prospect which it presented when I left Georgetown, and which the instrument, then signed by the combined interest (as it was termed) of Georgetown and Carrollsburg, so plainly describes. The pain which this occurrence occasions me is the more sensibly felt, as I had taken pleasure, during my journey through the several States, to relate the agreement, and to speak of it, on every proper occasion, in terms, which applauded the conduct of the Parties, as being alike conducive to the public welfare, and to the interest of individuals, which last it was generally thought would be most benefitted by the amazing encrease of the property reserved to the Landholders.

[66] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The words cited by Messrs. Young,[67] Peters,[68] Lingan,[69] and Forrest[70] and Stoddert,[71] may be nearly what I expressed, but will these Gentlemen say this was given as the precise boundary, or will they, by detaching these words, take them in a sense unconnected with the general explanation of my ideas and views upon that occasion, or without the qualifications, which, unless I am much mistaken, were added, of running *about* so and so, for I had no map before me for direction. Will they not recollect my observation that Philadelphia stood upon an area of three by two miles, and that, if the metropolis of *one State* occupied so much ground, what ought that of the United States to occupy? Did I not moreover observe that before the city could be laid out, and the spot for the public buildings be precisely fixed on, the water courses were to be levelled, the heights taken &ca. &ca.?

Let the whole of my declaration be taken together, and not a part only, and being compared with the instrument then subscribed, together with some other circumstances which might be alluded to, let any impartial man judge whether I had reason to expect that difficulties would arise in the conveyances.

When the instrument was presented I found no occasion to add a word with respect to boundary, because the whole was surrendered upon the conditions which were expressed. Had I discovered a disposition in the subscribers to contract my views I should then have pointed out the inconveniences and the impolicy of the measure.

Upon the whole I shall hope and expect that the business will be suffered to proceed; and the more so as they cannot be

[67] Notley Young.
[68] Robert Peter (Peters).
[69] James M. Lingan.
[70] Uriah Forrest.
[71] Benjamin Stoddert.

ignorant that the further consideration of a certain measure in a neighbouring State stands postponed; for what reason is left to their own information or conjectures.

I expect to be with you at the time appointed, and should be exceedingly pleased to find all difficulties removed. I am etc.[72]

To JAMES SEAGROVE[73]

Augusta, Georgia, May 20, 1791.

Sir: The confidence, which your character inclines me to place in you, has induced me to commit the enclosed letter from the Secretary of State to Governor Quesada,[74] and the

[72] In the writing of William Jackson in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.*

On May 9 Washington left Charleston, and on May 11, at Pocotaligo, then on the Pocotaligo River in Prince William's Parish, he received and answered an address from the people of Prince William's Parish. Both the address and the answer are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On May 12 Washington reached Savannah. On this same day an address was dispatched to him by the Congregational Church and Society at Midway, formerly St. John's Parish, Liberty County, Ga., which he answered presumably the next day (May 13). This address and the answer is is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.* Sparks spells the name "Medway."

On May 13 Washington received addresses from the mayor and aldermen of Savannah, from the citizens of Savannah and its vicinity, and from the Society of the Cincinnati of Georgia. These addresses and the answers are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

On May 14 Washington received addresses from the grand master, officers, and members of the Grand Lodge of Georgia Masons, and from the German Congregation of Ebenezer (this last was in Latin). The address from the Grand Lodge and the reply thereto are recorded in the "Letter Book." The original of the address, from the Ebenezer Congregation, is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers;* but no text of an answer has been found therein.

On May 15 Washington left Savannah and reached Augusta, Ga., May 18, where, in the following day, he received and answered an address from the citizens of that city. On May 20 he also received and answered an address from Gov. Edward Telfair. These addresses and answers are recorded in the "Letter Book." He left Augusta May 21 for Columbia, S. C.

[73] United States superintendent of the Creek Indians.

[74] Juan Nepomuceno de Quesada, Spanish governor of Florida. He was inviting foreigners to settle in that territory.

Jefferson wrote to Washington (April 2): "This is meant for our people. debtors take advantage of it and go off with their property. Our citizens have a right to go where they please. it is the business of the states to take measures to stop them till

negotiation, which will be consequent thereon, to your care and management. The letter which is under a flying seal, to be closed before it is delivered, will inform you of the import, and serve to instruct you in the mode of conducting the object of your mission; delicate in its nature, it will require the greatest address and temper in its treatment; nor must any proposition or declaration be made, which in its consequence might commit the government of the United States.

The enclosed copy of a letter, written by my direction, from the Secretary of State to the Governor of Georgia, which is now confidentially communicated to you, is another source, whence some information may be drawn; but, as my ideas of your personal acquaintance with this business, combined with my opinion of your character and talents to transact it, have determined me to appoint you, it is from your own knowledge, and the circumstances, which may arise, that you must decide on the best means to accomplish the negotiation. Your first care will be to arrest the farther reception of fugitive slaves, your next to obtain restitution of those slaves, who have fled to Florida, since the date of Governor Quesada's letter to Mr. Jefferson, notifying the orders of his Catholic Majesty; and your last object, which may demand the greatest address, will be to give a retrospective force to the orders of the Court of Spain,

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their debts are paid. this done, I wish a hundred thousand of our inhabitants would accept the invitation. it will be the means of delivering to us peaceably what may otherwise cost us a war. in the meantime we may complain of this reduction of our inhabitants just enough to make them believe we think it very wise policy for them, and confirm them in it." A press copy of Jefferson's letter is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On May 20 Jackson wrote to John Habersham, collector of the port of Savannah, "that Mr. Seagrove is going to St. Augustine on public business, and that he is instructed to draw from you such a sum of money as may be necessary to defray his expenses, in case his own funds should not be adequate thereto. You will be pleased to supply Mr. Seagrove, taking duplicate receipts for the amount, one of which you will transmit to the Secretary of the Treasury, which will be allowed in the settlement of your accounts." Jackson's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

beyond the date of that letter, and to procure the Governor's order for a general relinquishment of all fugitive slaves, who were the property of citizens of the United States. This last instruction will require peculiar delicacy, and must be entered on with caution and circumspection, or not be taken up at all, as appearances of compliance may justify the one or the other.

If your collectorate cannot furnish money to defray your expenses, in which you will observe due œconomy, and of which you will transmit an account to the Secretary of State, you will supply yourself from the Collector of Savannah. I am &c.[75]

To CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY AND EDWARD RUTLEDGE

(Private)

Columbia, May 24, 1791.

Gentlemen: An address to you jointly on a subject of the following nature may have a singular appearance; but that singularity will not exceed the evidence which is thereby given of my opinion of, and confidence in you; and of the opinion I entertain of your confidence in and friendship for each other.

The office lately resigned by the Honble. Mr. J. Rutledge in the Supreme Judiciary of the Union remains to be filled. Will either of you two Gentlemen accept it?[76] and in that case, which of you? It will occur to you that appointments to offices in the recess of the Senate are temporary, but of their confirmation in such a case there can be *no* doubt.

[75] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 21 Washington left Augusta and reached Columbia May 22, where he stayed until the morning of May 25. On that day Washington received and answered an address from the citizens of Columbia, Granby, and the vicinity. Both the address and the reply are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[76] In a joint reply (June 12), written and signed by Pinckney, and also signed by Rutledge, both men declined. Their letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

It may be asked why a proposition similar to this has never been made to you before, this is my answer, your friends whom I have often conversed with on like occasions have always given it as their decided opinion that no place in the disposal of the genl. Government could be a compensation for the relinquishment of your private pursuits; or, in their belief, would withdraw you from them. In making the attempt, however, in the present instance, I discharge my duty, and shall await your answer (which I wish to receive soon) for the issue. Of my sincere esteem and regard for you both I wish you to be assured and that I am &c.[77]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Fredericksburgh, June 12,[78] 1791.

Dear Sir: Yesterday we arrived at this place in good health, but with horses much worn down. Tomorrow I expect to reach Mt. Vernon, where, even if my horses were able to proceed, I am obliged to remain until the 27th. instant, the day appointed by me at the last meeting, to meet the Commissioners at George

[77] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 25, at Camden, Washington received and answered an address from the inhabitants of Camden. In his answer he said: "Your grateful remembrance of that excellent friend and gallant officer, the Baron de Kalb, does honor to the goodness of your hearts. With your regrets I mingle mine for his loss, and to your praise I join the tribute of my esteem for his memory. Both the address and answer are entered in the "Letter Book."

On May 30 Washington arrived in Salisbury, N. C., where he received and answered an address from the inhabitants of the town. In his reply he said: "Our national glory and our domestic tranquility can never be tarnished or disturbed while they are guarded by wise laws founded in public virtue. Among the measures which an enlightened and patriotic Legislature will pursue to preserve them, I doubt not the means of difusing useful information will be duly considered." Both address and answer are entered in the "Letter Book."

On May 31 Washington left Salisbury and arrived at Salem the same day.

On June 1 the united brethren of Watchovia presented an address which was answered. Both the address and the answer are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[78] Washington states in his "Diary" that he arrived at Fredericksburg June 10, and left the following day. He arrived at Mount Vernon June 12. This date, therefore, should be June 10 or June 11.

town, in order to fix on the spot for the public buildings, and for other purposes, arising from the residence Act.

I have, at this place, received your letter of the 30th. Ulto; but none of an intermediate date between that of the 15th. and it. Your directions to have them sent cross-wise the Country, was unlucky, first, because there are no cross-posts. 2d. because my rout back was not irrevocably fixed, and 3d. because I had, knowing these circumstances, directed from Charleston all letters which might be following me, to be returned to this place to await my call. The slow movement of the Mail in the three Southern States prevented (I presume) these directions getting to Richmond before the letters were forwarded to Taylors ferry, and my crossing at Carters (a ferry much higher up James River) has been the cause, or causes, I imagine, of my missing them.

Being interrupted by visitors, I shall postpone until I arrive at Mt. Vernon, further communications; the principal, indeed the only purpose of this letter being, to advise you of my arrival at this place, and of my intended stay at Mount Vernon, for the reason which I have assigned. My best wishes attend you, Mrs. Lear and the Child; and I am etc. [H. L.]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, June 13, 1791.

My dear Sir: I am arrived at this place and just in time to acknowledge (in a hasty manner by this days Post, the first opportunity that has offered of writing to Philadelphia since I left Savannah) the receipt of your private letter of the 17th. of April by Mr. Smith who lodged it at Cambden, through which it was

known my route would be on my return to the seat of the Government.

Mr. Wolcott[79] may be informed that it is my intention to appoint him to the office of Comptroller.[80] With respect to his success as Auditor, I shall suspend my determination (if no manifest inconvenience will result from it) until my arrival in Philadelphia, which however, is not likely to happen before the 5. or 6 of July as (by appointment at the last meeting) I am to meet the Commissioners, under the residence Act on Monday the 27th. inst: at Georgetown, and may, for aught I know to the contrary, be detained there several days; and afterwards must move slowly, on account of the exhausted condition of my horses.

No letters from the Northward or Eastward of this, bearing date between the 15th. and 30th. of May have come to may hands; and having abundant evidence before I reached Charleston of the slow movements of the mail through the three Southernmost States, I did, before I left that place, on the 9th. of that month direct that all letters which might be for and following me to be returned to Fredericksburgh as the first place I should touch the post line upon my return. But, these directions not arriving in Richmond in time (as I conjecture) the letters of that interval, agreeably to the superscriptions which I am informed were on them, were forwarded from that place to Taylors Ferry, in expectation of meeting me there; but to this circumstance, which was unknown to me, and to finding from better information than I set out with, that it would be more convenient to cross James River higher up than at Taylors; is to be ascribed my missing the communications which were made between

[79] Oliver Wolcott, jr.
[80] Comptroller of the Treasury.

the 15. and 30. of May as mentioned before. These dispatches I may be long without, and perhaps never get; for there are no cross posts in those parts, and the letters, which will have to pass through *many* hands, may find *some* who are not deficient in curiosity.

My return to this place is sooner than I expected; owing to the uninterruptedness of my journey by sickness, from bad weather, or accidents of any kind whatsoever. Having obtained before I left Philadelphia the most accurate account, I could get there, of the places and roads through, and by which I was to perform my tour; and the distances between the former; I formed my line of march accordingly; fixed each day's journey and the day to halt; from neither of which have I departed in a single instance, except staying, from a particular circumstance, two days in Columbia, and none at Charlotte, instead of one at each; and crossing James River at Carters Ferry in place of Taylors, as was the original intention. But the improbability of performing a tour of 1700 miles (I have already rode more), with the same set of horses without encountering any accident, by which a deviation would be rendered unavoidable appeared so great, that I allowed eight days for casualties, and six to refresh at this place when I should have returned to it. None of the former having happened, account for the 14 days I shall remain here before the meeting with the Commrs; one of whom Mr. Johnson chief Justice of the State of Maryland, and living at a pretty considerable distance from Georgetown; having made his arrangements agreeably thereto, would not be able to meet me sooner.

I mention this matter, that, if there is any thing pressing in either of the Departments, it may be known where I am. With affectionate regard I am etc.[81]

[81] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, June 15, 1791.

Sir: I acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 2nd. of April from Richmond; since which I have only received two letters from you of the 10th. of April and 15th. of May.

Concluding that some of your dispatches may have been forwarded to Taylor's ferry (by which route I did not return) I have to request, if that should have been the case, and the communications were of a particular or pressing nature, that duplicates may be addressed to me at Mount-Vernon, where I shall remain until the 27th. of the present month, when, by an appointment before I went to the southward, I am to meet the Commissioners at Georgetown.

I cannot now determine how long I may be there, but it is probable I shall not make any particular communications to you before my return to Philadelphia. If the suggestion contained in your letter of the 10th. of April, respecting the engravings, can be carried into effect at a moderate expence, I think it may answer a good purpose.[82] I am etc.

A letter from Major Shaw,[83] Consul at Canton, of the 7th. of December last, with it's enclosures, and a very unexpected address from some Persons styling themselves, "free People of colour of the Island of Grenada," are herewith transmitted for your consideration, and your opinions thereon when I see you in Philadelphia.[84]

[82] Jefferson had written (April 10): "While in Europe I selected about a dozen or two of the handsomest fronts of private buildings of which I have the plates. perhaps it might decide the taste of the new town, were these to be engraved here, and distributed gratis among the inhabitants of Georgetown. the expence would be trifling." From a press copy in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[83] Samuel Shaw.

[84] In the writing of William Jackson in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, June 15, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 29th. ulto. I acknowledged the receipt of from Fredericksburgh, since which, another of the 5th. instt. has been received.

The Commissions for Whitalker and McDowell[85] were properly issued as those also are, mentd. in yr. letter of the 5th; and it was on my Mind, that blank Commissions signed by me, were left with you for the Officers of the Revenue Cutters; This not being the case, quere, if there is not a necessity of sending some to me for my signature, as I shall not leave this before the 27th: may be detained at Georgetown two or three days; and must, afterwards, proceed slowly, on acct. of the low condition of my horses. The Secretary of the Treasury will be able to decide on this point, and I wish you to act in the matter accordingly as he shall advise you. I find another of the federal Judges (Hopkinson)[86] has by his death occasioned a vacancy in the district of Pennsylvania. As some have, and others unquestionably will apply for the appointment; I wish you would use every *indirect* means in your power, to ascertain the public opinion with respect to the fittest character, as a Successor to Hopkinson. Pursue the same mode to learn who it is thought would fill the present Auditors Office (as *he* will be appointed Comptroler) with the greatest ability and integrity. Severals have been brought to my view for the Comptrolers place (who I suppose would accept of the Auditors) as able and meritorious characters; among these are the names of Mr. Richmond,[87] the present Comptroler or Auditor of Maryland; Colo. Pickering,[88]

[85] John Whitaker and Joseph McDowell, jr. They were inspectors of survey of customs in North Carolina.

[86] Francis Hopkinson, judge of the District of Pennsylvania.

[87] Christopher Richmond.

[88] Timothy Pickering.

Mr. Kean,[89] Colo. Drayton[90] (a Gentn. of So. Carolina), Colo. Forrest[91] and others.

It is hardly to be expected by the Trustees of *any* College, that complaints will not be made by the parents or friends of the boys who go to it, if they conceive they are neglected; and if Trustees mean to do their duty, and support the reputation of the Siminary, they ought, I am sure, to be thankful for well founded representations of neglect in the œconomy, police, or inattention of the professors and teachers.

I am glad to hear that the affairs of our own family are going on well, and it might not be improper to hint to the Servants who are with you (before they are joined by those with me) that it will be very idle and foolish in them, to enter into any combinations for the purpose of supplanting those who are now in authority; for the attempt in the first place will be futile, and must recoil upon themselves; and because, admitting they were to make the lives of the present Steward and housekeeper so uneasy as to induce them to quit, others would be got to supply their places; and such too, as would be equally, if not more rigid in the exaction of the duties required of Servants. In a word, that these characters are indispensably necessary to take the trouble off the hands of Mrs. Washington and myself, and will be supported; any attempts therefore to counteract them in the line of their duty, whilst they act agreeably to established rules, and their conduct is marked with propriety, will be considered as the strongest evidence they conceive of their own unworthiness, and dispositions to be lazy, if not dishonest. A good and faithful servant is never affraid, or unwilling to have his conduct looked into, but the reverse; because the more it is inspected, the brighter it shines. With respect to the other

[89] John Kean.
[90] William(?) Drayton.
[91] Uriah Forrest.

matters of a domestic nature, mentioned in your letter of the 5th. I shall postpone touching upon them until I see you. We are suffering in these parts by a severe drought. Grass is scarcely worth cutting, and Oats, if Rain keeps off two or 3 days longer must be ruined. Corn is bad, but it is too early in the year to form an opinion of the yield of it. Remember me to Mrs. Lear, and be assured of the sincere esteem etc. [H. L.]

To ROBERT MORRIS

Mount Vernon, June 16, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 20th. of April was not received until yesterday morning, *none* of later date than the 15th. of that month overtook me on the road to Savannah; and orders were dispatched for all to be returned to this place after I left the post-road. This will account for the late reception of yours.

The very favorable character given of Mr. Wolcott before his appointment to the office of Auditor, having been fully vindicated by his talents and attention in the discharge of its duties, I considered his appointment to the vacant office of Comptroller as due to the public service, and to his own merit, and, in conformity to that opinion, I requested the Secretary of the Treasury, in a letter of the 13th. instant, to inform Mr. Wolcott that I should appoint him Comptroller of the Treasury. With great regard, I am etc.[92]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1791.

Sir: By the last post from the southward I received your letters of the 17th. and 24th. of April, with their enclosures.

[92] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

In a letter of the 7th. of May, which I wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury from Charleston, I expressed my approbation of what he informed me had been determined by the Vice-President and the Heads of Departments, relative to Mr. Short's negociation at Amsterdam, and the further progress of the loans in Holland. I am etc.[93]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, June 19, 1791.

Sir: My letter of the 15 inst. mentioned that I had not received any letters from you between the 15th. and the 30 of May, it should have been between the 15th of April and 30th of May.

By the last post from the southward I received yours of the 17th. of April, which renders a duplicate of that letter unnecessary.

As it appears alike requisite to the satisfaction of the public mind and to General Harmar's honor that the enquiry which he requests should be instituted, I herewith transmit to you his letter to me, with its enclosures, in order that you may give the necessary directions for convening a board of Officers.

Being unacquainted with the state of the subject to which the enclosed letters from Messieurs Foster of Rhode Island relate, I refer them to your consideration. I am etc.[94]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, June 19, 1791.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you (from this place) I have received your letters of the 12th. immediately from Philadelphia,

[93] In the writing of William Jackson in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[94] The draft is in the writing of William Jackson.

and those of the 17th. and 24th of April after their having taken a trip to the Southward.

I find by Mrs. Washington's letters that Mr. Frauncis is very desirous of introducing Mrs. Read into the family again; this idea it would be well for him to relinquish at once, and forever; for, unless there are reasons inducing it, which my imagination cannot furnish, it never will happen. Herculas can answer every purpose that Mrs. Read would do, and others which she will not; and sure I am that the difference in the expence between the two will bear no comparison; besides, supposing Mrs. Read to act fairly and honestly (which by the bye I do not believe she is disposed to do) if she is not to be the absolute Mistress of her own conduct, in a word, *uncontroulable,* she would not remain in the family a month. She would also increase the number, and of course the expence of the *second* Table; which under the Administration of Mr. Hyde, I believe was equal to the first (public days excepted). But I hope it is a matter clearly understood by Mr. Frauncis that Wine is not to be used at it again under any pretence whatsoever; for there can be no line drawn if it be once admitted; either as to the quantity or quality that will be drank at it.

By the last Post, the letter of Messrs. Fenwick and Mason, explanatory of the Wine from Charleston, was forwarded to you; and I should be glad to hear that the wine was recd. in good order; for no attempts of that Ho. hitherto, seems to have succeeded well, so far as I am concerned in them. The other Wine to Mr. Jefferson will, I presume, be divided, and settled for,[95] as soon as he shall have returned from his Northern tour.

[95] On July 7 Lear wrote to Mason, Fenwick & Co., at Bordeaux: "The six cases of claret and two cases of Grave wine, mentioned in your letter of the 9th. of July came to hand in good order by the way of New York; and the 14 cases, viz. two of muscat de Froutignan, seven of haut sauterne, and five of claret, were received in the like good order by the way of Charleston. For the first shipment you mention your having received payment from Messieurs Wakelin Welch and Son of london; and for the

Without going into the detail on the several points of yr. letters I can assure you that the measures you have adopted with respect to Washington, George and Lawrence, my black people, and the employment of Mr. Fraunces and Mrs. Emmerson, as far as they have been communicated, meet my entire approbation; and I wish you to inculcate strongly upon the white Servants of the family, (as mentioned in my last) that it will be vain and idle in them to suppose, that by a combination they will avoid their own duties, or can effect the discharge of those to whom the managment of the Household business is committed. They must be sensible, that they have as high wages as are given to any Servants in their respective stations. that they are as well provided, and perhaps *better* paid than most, and no extra: duties imposed upon them; consequently, that if an attempt of this sort is made, it will recoil upon themselves. I shall communicate the same sentiments to those who are with me, that, if they do sin, it shall be with their eyes open, and under a knowledge of the consequences.

As I shall have occasion for a number of blanketts for my people this fall; and as the best time to purchase them, I am told, is after the Winter's demand is over; I should be glad if you would make a pretty diligent enquiry after them before I arrive; that I may know *whether,* and upon *what* terms, I can get supplied. It is probable I may want near two hundred.

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second the amount is paid to Mr. Jefferson as you requested. Of these wines none have yet been proved except the claret of the first shipment which is pronounced very good. Those ordered by Mr. Jefferson are undoubtedly of an excellent quality coming directly from the fountain head. We have yet heard nothing of the first quantity of wine which you shipped for the President, and which was so unfortunate; except the information relative thereto in your letters. It seems to have passed thro' so many trials that when it does come, if at all, it must either be highly improved or totally spoiled. When the President forwarded to you the bill on Juage and Deputy he had but little confidence in its goodness, and the event is therefore no disappointment to him. The President directs me to communicate to you, Gentlemen, his thanks for your polite attention to his orders, as well as for your anticipation of his wishes by the wines sent in July last, and to inform you that seasonable notice shall in future be given of such wines as he may have occasion for from your quarter." Lear's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

The Majr.[96] desires me to write for half a bushel of Turnip seed of the best kind, viz, a peck of the white Summer, and the other peck of the red winter; but a good winter, and good Summer Turnip of any other kind, I suppose will do. It must be sent soon, or both will be useless.

I should like to see Mr. Paynes[97] answer to Mr. Burke's Pamphlet;[98] if it is to be had, and could be sent off by the Post on friday, it would meet me at George Town Monday the 27th; where I shall be, and from whence I shall proceed; but on what day is more than I am able to determine until I go there, and shall see what is necessary to be done at that place towards carrying the Law respecting the Permanent residence of the Government into effect. To do this, there are many matters to decide upon; and some of them not a little difficult. It is not very probable therefore that I shall leave Georgetown before Thursday; but I would not have such dependence placed on this, as to *expect* letters will meet me there on Wednesday evening; especially as it is in distant contemplation (if upon enquiry at Georgetown it shall be found that the difference in the length of the two Roads is not great) to return by the way of Frederick town, York and Lancaster, to Philadelphia.

Paris has become so lazy, selfwilled and impudent, that John (the Coachman) had no sort of government of him; on the contrary, Jno. says it was a maxim with Paris to do nothing he was ordered, and every thing he was forbid. This conduct, added to the incapacity of Giles for a Postilion, who I believe will never be able to mount a horse again for that purpose, has induced me to find Paris some other employment than in the Stable; of course I shall leave him at home. A boy, or two may

[96] George Augustine Washington.
[97] Thomas Paine.
[98] His reply to Edmund Burke's "Reflections on the French Revolution" constituted what was afterwards the first part of "The Rights of Man."

be necessary there, to assist about the horses, Carriages, and harness, but these (dutch ones) it is possible may be had for their victuals and cloaths; especially if there are large importations from Germany (as some articles in the papers say there will be). I mention the matter now, that in case arrivals should happen before I get back, of these kind of People, you may be apprised of my wishes, low and squat (well made) boys, would suit best. If emigrants are not to be had, there can be no doubt, but that some of the Dutch Servants in the family could easily procure such as are wanted from among the Citizens, and perhaps none readier, or better than by John himself when he arrives. Remember me to Mrs. Lear, and be assured of the esteem and regard of Yr. etc.[99]

To JAMES MERCER

Mount Vernon, June 21, 1791.

Dear Sir: When I was in Fredericksburg on my way to the southward I received a letter from Mr. Niel McCoull of which, and the letter of his Lawyer, referred to, the enclosed are copies. The verbal answer returned to Mr. McCoull by his son, was that I had conceived so far as I was concerned in the business, that the matter had been settled long ago. But as it appeared otherwise from the application he had then made to me, I would on my return speak to you on the subject, and inform him of the result. This I accordingly intended to have done; but your duties in Richmond having taken you from Fredericksburg at the time I came thro' it, I am reduced to the necessity of troubling you with a letter, praying that some decision may be had by which I shall be released from this demand,

[99] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

or at any rate, that I may be instructed what answer to give Mr. McCoull, who unquestionably will expect one from Dear Sir, Your etc.[1]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, June 26, 1791.

Dear Sir: This is the eve of my departure for George Town, and being Sunday, ought to have been a day of rest; but it is not so with me, either from company, or business; the latter, occasioned by a constant succession of company during the whole of last week: wch. obliged me to postpone many matters until this day, which ought, and but for that reason, would have been done in the course of it. Such time as I have been able to spend in my Study to day, has been employed in sorting of the Letters and Papers which have been recd. since I left Charleston, part of which I enclose, because my travelling writing desk will not contain them.

I have but little leizure to say much in this letter, if much (as I expect soon to be in Philadelphia) was necessary. I presume all the letters which had been sent to Taylors ferry, and other places have got to me, but that you may judge, the following is a list of them.

April 3d. 5th. 10th. 15th. 17th. 24th.

May 1st. 8th. 15th. 22d. 29th.

June 5th. 12th. 19th.

What my stay at Georgetown may be, is at present beyond my ken. I go there prepared to proceed, and shall make Herculas take the Waggon box in place of Paris. From that place, so soon as I shall be able to decide on the day of my departure

[1] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

from it, and the rout, I will inform you, or Mrs. Washington thereof. I think it was a duty you owed Mrs. Lear, your mother, to meet her at New York, for the purpose of accompanying her to Philadelphia. If she is still in that city I request my respects may be presented to her. The last Post came without the Commissions promised in the P. S. to your letter of the 19th. or any letter from you. My best wishes attend Mrs. Lear &ca. and I am etc.

To JOHN CHESTNUT[2]

Mount Vernon, June 26, 1791.

Sir: In conformity to my promise, when I saw you in Camden, I have selected one of my drill plows, which will be sent to Norfolk, whence it will be forwarded to Charleston, directed to you, and addressed to the care of General Pinckney.

The original intention of the drill plough, on the principle of that which is sent to you, was to plant the grain or seed in rows, at equal distances, the distance to be determined by the space at which the holes were made from each other, their number for corn was only four. But in sowing gran [*sic*] and some other kinds of grain in drills the holes were increased to the number now in the barrel.

The application of this plough to the planting of indigo will, in my opinion, be productive of dispatch, regularity, and an abridgment of labour.

The continuity in which the indigo seed is sown, in the same row, will require an additional number of holes, the proportioning of which, and their size, in order that the seed may issue in proper and equal quantity, may occasion some waste

[2] Of Camden, S. C.

at first; but the loss of seed in determining them will be no object, compared with the advantages, when the just size and number of the holes are ascertained.

You will perceive that the plough which is sent, is drawn by a swingle tree; but they may likewise be made with shafts, the barrels may be extended to six feet, or to such length as to answer for any number of rows, that may be thought necessary, compartitioned as to prevent an accumulation of the seed at either end. You will have occasion to perfix a ploughshare to each row of holes, and proportion your force of horses or oxen to the draft.

The footstock to which the truck wheel is fixed, and which may be raised or depressed, is intended to regulate the depth of the plough's insertion into the ground.

The band which crosses the barrel in a certain direction, was placed, when the grain was to be deposited at equal distances, to prevent its emission at more holes than one; in sowing the indigo seed it will not be wanted.

The harrow will be proportioned to the plough or ploughs, and so constructed as effectually to cover the seed, without adding more than is unavoidable to the weight.

I hope you will sufficiently comprehend the principles of this plough to render its adoption highly useful to the planting interest of South Carolina.

Should the experiment so eventuate, my agency therein will be most agreeably rewarded. I am etc.[3]

[3] The text is from Henderson's *Washington's Southern Tour* (Boston: 1923), p. 266. The letter was inclosed in a brief note to Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, with the request that he forward it. This note, dated June 26, 1791, is in the possession of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City, who kindly furnished a photostat of it.

On June 26 Washington wrote to the Secretary of State, acknowledging the receipt of letters. "This acknowledgement is all the notice I shall take of them until I have the pleasure of seeing you." This letter is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*MEMORANDUM OF CARPENTRY WORK TO BE DONE[4]

[June, 1791]

The Work which immediately occurs to me to be done is the following; but the order in wch. it is to be executed, must depend in part upon the weather, and circumstances; but chiefly upon the Orders of Mr. Whiting.

viz.

A Corn house at the New Barn, at Ferry and French's Plantation exactly of the size and appearance of the one by the Overseers House at the Ferry.

Another Corn House at the River Plantation of the size, and similar to the one that is now there.

Shingling the side of the Overseers House at the Ferry that leaks, and making it tight.

Finishing the Well by the New Quarter that the efficacy of the Rope may be tried in drawing Water.

Building a Necessary, with two Seats for the use of the New Quarter; It may be shingled with, old Shingles, and weather-boarded with old plank ripped off the old Quarter. Isaac knows where it is to be placed.

Removing Richards House in the Hollow to Muddy hole for Davy to live in.

Huts, or some kind of covering will be wanting at Dogue-run; some of the People at that place complain much of the Leakiness of their Houses and others will be sent there.

Setting up the New Gates where wanting; and will be pointed out by Mr. Whiting.

Muddy hole Barn is to be compleatly repaired; and that in the Neck is to be thoroughly examined; but, if upon examination

[4]This memorandum seems to have been drawn up by Washington for George Augustine Washington. It is filed in the *Washington Papers* at the end of the year 1794.

it is found to be so far gone as to be irreparable, or, that the repairs would be almost as tedious and expensive as building a new one; it must, in that case be only patched and propped so as to serve until a new one can be built.

The old Quarter at Mansion House to be taken down; and all the Scantling, Boards and shingles worth any thing secured, and the Nails saved.

Frames for Hot beds to be prepared for the Gardener according to his directions if it is not upon an expensive plan.

Air, by means of dormant Windows, or doors like the others to be admitted into the graineries at the New Barn at Ferry and French's. agreeably to directions given.

The same thing to be done, and for the same purpose, on the stable at the Mansion House. This also has been explained.

The Floor and Sleepers of the Ice House should be examined and repaired, if they want it, before the time for fitting it shall arrive.

A Screen, or Sieve for seperating Stone for gravel should be got ready for the Gardener.

Preparation should be made, and the materials provided, for making new, and repairing old Harrows, Ploughs, Cradles, Rakes and such like things: As also for the necessary repairs of Houses &ca; In short, everything of this kind should be looked forward to, as worth for weather which would make out-door labour unprofitable and inconvenient.

The Houses at the Ferry and French's Plantations are to be removed to the center of both (where marked) as soon as circumstances will admit of it.

And, I believe, I shall lay in materials for building a Barn and treading floor at Dogue Run. but this I shall consider of.

New Posts for the circle before the door must be thought of, but of what kind is not absolutely resolved on at present.

Making gravel Walks in the upper Garden, and in the Pine Labyrinths.

Getting up all the ground in the Vineyard Inclosure.

Keeping the Shrubberies clean

Planting Trees, in Clumps and otherwise and trimming others.

Planting Ivy around the Ice House and at the No. end of the Lawn East of the Ho., also on the sides by the front gate.

To THE INHABITANTS OF FREDERICK

[July 1, 1791.]

Gentlemen: I express with great pleasure my obligations to your goodness, and my gratitude for the respectful and affectionate regard which you are pleased to manifest towards me.

Your ascription of my public services over-rates their value, and it is justice to my fellow-citizens that I should assign the eminent advantages of our political condition to another cause, their valor, wisdom, and virtue—from the first they derive their freedom, the second has improved their independence into national prosperity, and the last, I trust, will longer protect their social rights, and ensure their individual happiness.

That your participation of these advantages may realise your best wishes is my sincere prayer.[5]

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[5] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

"The business which brot. me to Georgetown being finished. . . . I set off this morning a little after 5 Oclock . . . towards Philadelphia; and being desirous of seeing the nature of the Country North of Georgetown, and along the upper roads, I resolved to pass through Frederickstown in Maryland and York and Lancaster in Pennsylvania . . . arrived at Frederick town about Sundown."—*Washington's "Diary,"* June 30, 1791.

On July 3 Washington received and answered an address from the citizens of the Borough of York, and also from the Ancient York Masons of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. These addresses and answers are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 4, at Lancaster, Washington received and answered an address from the corporation and inhabitants, both of which are entered in the "Letter Book." He arrived at Philadelphia on July 6.

To THOMAS SMITH

Philadelphia, July 8, 1791.

Sir: I received your letter of the 20 of April, while I was on my journey to the southward, and until my return to this place it has not been in my power to acknowledge the receipt of it.

I must now beg, Sir, that you will receive my best thanks for the particular attention which you have paid to such business as I have had occasion to place in your hands, and to be assured that you have accomplished it entirely to my satisfaction.

The sum of 276 20/100 dollars which you mention to have lodged in the Bank of North America, subject to my order, I find is there. With very great esteem and regard, I am etc.[6]

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Tuesday, [July][7] 12, 1791.

The enclosed I send this afternoon, for your perusal. Tomorrow, 8 'Oclock, I shall send the person who was the bearer of it, to you. It being the hour, he left word, when he left the letter, that he should call upon me. If Mr. Pearce[8] merits the character given him by T: D.[9] he will unquestionably merit encouragement, and you can put him in the way to obtain it. Yrs. etc.[10]

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[6] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[7] Dated inadvertently "June."

[8] William Pearce. He wished to obtain a patent for the loom he and his partner, —— McCabe, had invented.

[9] Thomas Digges. His letter of Apr. 28, 1791, from Belfast, Ireland, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[10] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On July 12 Lear wrote to the Secretary of State transmitting "the returns of the enumeration of the Inhabitants of the Districts of *Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia* and *Kentucky* . . . made by the Marshals of said Districts in conformity to the act for enumerating the Inhabitants of the United States." Lear's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

To WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Philadelphia, July 13, 1791.

Sir: I have received, since my return to this place, the letter which you were so kind as to write on the 6th. of June, and am now to make you my acknowledgements for the information it contained. very soon after I came to the government, I took measures for enquiring into the disposition of the British cabinet on the matters in question between us: and what you now communicate corresponds very exactly with the result of those enquiries. Their intention indeed to send a Minister is more strongly indicated on this occasion, as one of the Secretaries of state has come forward voluntarily to say so. how far they may be disposed to settle the other points which are really interesting to us, is still a subject of conjecture. in all events we are to thank you for the trouble you have taken, and the lights you have contributed to throw on this subject. [Having taken copies of the documents, which accompanied your letter, I herewith return the originals.] I am &c.[11]

To JEREMIAH WADSWORTH

Philadelphia, July 13, 1791.

Dear Sir: On the 15. of May I had the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to me of the first of that month, and informed you that I had transmitted it to the President.

In reply to the subject of your enquiries the President now directs me to inform you that it is not his intention to part with

[11] The draft, in the writing of Jefferson, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. The sentence in brackets is in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

his young Jack, the offspring of the Spanish Jack and the Maltese Jenny; but that in case a *very handsome offer* should be made he would (tho' previous to your application the matter had not been contemplated) dispose of his large Spanish Jack. The President has hitherto bred almost entirely from this Jack, and the Mules, which have descended from him are large boned, stout, and perfectly well tempered, he means however to breed next season from the Maltese Jack, after which the young Jack (now 3 years old) and which promises to be very large, will be old enough to take up, or assist in the business as shall be judged best, and this is his reason for inclining to part with the Spanish Jack in preference to the young One. But it must be understood that it is not a *small price* which will induce the President to dispose of this animal. The manner in which he came to the President, proving him to be of the very first quality, his size (upwards of fifteen hands high) and his form indicating strength and firmness almost beyond conception, his age, being now about nine years old, is said to be far short of their prime for the business for which they are wanted, and the vast advantage which must accrue to the Owner of such a creature, especially in a Country where mules are raised for exportation and Jacks of all kinds much in demand, are circumstances which will have their weight with the President in his expectation for him, and the same things will undoubtedly be well considered by the purchaser.

You will be so good, my dear Sir, as to communicate this to the persons who proposed purchasing the young Jack, and if they incline to come forward with such an offer in *cash* as may be thought adequate to so valuable an animal, they must do it *immediately;* for when the President was to the southward he was much pressed to send this Jack there for a season, and so strong was the importunity on this head that he engaged to send him to Colonel W. Washington of South Carolina the

ensuing fall unless prevented by some occurence which he did not know of at that time. If therefore such a proposition should not come forward in the course of two months as will induce the President to dispose of him, he will be sent to Carolina agreeable to promise. It is but right it should be known that this Jack is slow in covering, and must have a she ass to stimulate him to the performance of the duties expected from him. I am etc.

P. S. What would the persons, in whose behalf you interest yourself, give in *Cash* for the young Jack?[12]

*To THOMAS JOHNSON

Philadelphia, July 14, 1791.

Dear Sir: Without preface, or apology for propounding the following question to you, at this time, permit me to ask you with frankness, and in the fullness of friendship, whether you will accept of any appointment in the Supreme Judiciary of the United States? Mr. Rutledge's[13] resignation has occasioned a vacancy therein which I should be very glad to see filled by you.[14]

Your answer to this question by the Post (which is the most certain mode of conveying letters) as soon as you can make it convenient, will very much oblige Dear Sir Your etc. [H.S.P.]

[12] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 13 Lear wrote to the marshals of the districts of Rhode Island, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina; and to the marshals of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, and Kentucky, asking that "if the enumeration . . . has been so taken as to enable you to give the number of souls in each county and town . . . the President of the United States requests that you will be so good as to transmit to him a return of that description merely to gratify his private curiosity." These letters are recorded in the "Letter Book."

[13] John Rutledge.

[14] Johnson accepted and was commissioned August 5, nominated to the Senate November 1, and confirmed Nov. 7, 1791.

To JUDGE ÆDANUS BURKE

Philadelphia, July 19, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 6 of May covering one from Colo. Philemon Waters, was put into my hands while I was in Charleston. During my journey, you will readily conceive, it was not in my power to attend to, and answer the subject of Colo. Waters's letter, which is the cause of this late acknowledgement of it, and I must now request, Sir, as his letter came thro' your hands, and as a letter to him might meet some difficulty in getting to him across the Country, that you will be so good as to convey this reply to Colo. Waters whenever an opportunity occurs. That the 200,000 acres of land granted by Dinwiddies proclamation in the year 1754 to the Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Troops (a part of which Colo. Waters claims for having been a soldier at the battle of the Great Meadows in that year) having been surveyed, distributed, and patents issued in the names of those, who put in their claims before the close of the year 1773, there does not appear to be the smallest prospect of his receiving any benefit from his claim, and further that it is not possible for me to afford him any relief in this case either in the capacity of President of the United States (from which he seems to expect assistance) or in any other character. I am etc.[15]

To RICHARD CHAMPION

Philadelphia, July 19, 1791.

Sir: While I was on my journey through the southern States it was not in my power to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24 of May, which was put into my hands at Camden,

[15] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

and to make a proper return of my thanks for the manuscript reflections upon our present situation &ca., and the printed volume of your observations on the commercial connexion between G. B. and the U. S. which accompanied your letter.

You will therefore, Sir, be pleased now to accept of my acknowledgements for these as well as for the very polite terms in which you express yourself towards me in your letter.

To endeavor to diffuse a knowledge of the true interests of our country in a commercial or political view is certainly a meretorious attempt, and in this age of free enquiry every one has a right to submit to the consideration of his fellow-citizens such sentiments or information as he thinks may conduce to their interest or happiness. I am etc.[16]

To HANNAH GORDON[17]

Philadelphia, July 19, 1791.

Madam: In reply to your letter of the 3rd. of March with which I have been honored, I am under the necessity of observing, that circumstances put it out of my power to afford you any assistance in recovering your lands which you mention to have been confiscated during the late war in the State of Pennsylvania. Situated as I am in respect to the General Government of this country, you must yourself, Madam, be fully sensible of the impropriety there would be in my interfering with the laws of any particular State; and more especially in a case of an individual or private nature. You will therefore, I trust, have the goodness to believe that my conduct on this occasion is governed by a sense of public duty, which with me has ever been superior to every private consideration.

[16] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[17] Of Aberdeen, Scotland.

To the Courts of Justice I must beg leave to refer you, Madam, for the recovery of such bonds or debts as may be due to you in this country. They are open to foreigners of every description, and I flatter mself in no country will justice be found to be more equally or impartially administered. I have the honor etc.[18]

To CATHERINE MACAULAY GRAHAM

Philadelphia, July 19, 1791.

Madam: At the same time that I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the first of march with which I have been honored, let me request you to accept my thanks for your polite attention in sending me the pamphlet. which accompanied it. The importance of the subject, which has called forth your production and numerous others, is so deeply interesting to mankind, that every philanthropic mind, however far removed from the scene of action, cannot but feel anxious to see its termination,[19] and it must be the ardent wish of every good man, that its event may encrease the happiness of the human race.

I often regret, that my public duties do not allow me so much time as my inclination requires to attend to my private correspondences, especially, with you, Madam.[20] But I persuade myself, your goodness will lead you to place the brevity of this letter to its proper account, particularly when I add that I am but just returned from a tour of near 2000 miles thro' the southern States, to perform which took me more than 3 months. I shall only further add to it what I know must give you great pleasure, that the United States enjoy a scene of prosperity and tranquillity under the new government that could hardly have

[18] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[19] The French Revolution.
[20] Ford notes that Mrs. Macaulay Graham had died on June 22, 1791.

been hoped for under the old; and that, while you, in Europe, are troubled with war and rumors of war, every one here may sit under his own vine and none to molest or make him afraid. I have the honor etc.[21]

To REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Philadelphia, July 19, 1791.

Dear Sir: As it has ever been a rule with me to make my private concerns give way to my public duties, when both cannot be accomplished, I now find myself under the necessity, from the weight of public business, which is at this time much encreased by an absence of more than three months, or a tour thro' the southern States, of refraining to enter so fully into my private correspondencies as my inclination would lead me to do.

I am therefore only able to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31. of January, and refer you to a letter which I wrote on the 9 of March on the subject of the subscriptions to your history, and which contained the accounts of the subscription and a bill of exchange of £29. 15/3. Sterling for the ballance of that account.

I now enclose the 3 bill of the set which accompanied your account, and shall only add my thanks for the prayers and good wishes which you offer for my happiness, and assure you that I reciprocate them with very great sincerity. I am etc.[21]

To DAVID HUMPHREYS

Philadelphia, July 20, 1791.

My dear Sir: I have received your letters of the 16 of February and 3 of May, and am much obliged by your observations

[21] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

on the situation, manners, customs and dispositions of the Spanish nation. In this age of free inquiry and enlightened reason it is to be hoped that the condition of the people in every Country will be bettered, and the happiness of mankind promoted. Spain appears to be so much behind the other Nations of Europe in liberal policy that a long time will undoubtedly elapse before the people of that kingdom can taste the sweets of liberty, and enjoy the natural advantages of their Country.

In my last I mentioned my intention of visiting the southern States, which I have since accomplished, and have the pleasure to inform you, that I performed a journey of 1887 miles without meeting with any interruption by sickness, bad weather, or any untoward accident. Indeed so highly were we favored that we arrived at each place, where I proposed to make any halt, on the very day I fixed upon before we set out. The same horses performed the whole tour, and, altho' much reduced in flesh, kept up their full spirits to the last day.

I am much pleased that I have taken this journey as it has enabled me to see with my own eyes the situation of the country thro' which we travelled, and to learn more accurately the disposition of the people than I could have done by any information.

The country appears to be in a very improving state, and industry and frugality are becoming much more fashionable than they have hitherto been there. Tranquillity reigns among the people, with that disposition towards the general government which is likely to preserve it. They begin to feel the good effects of equal laws and equal protection. The farmer finds a ready market for his produce, and the merchant calculates with more certainty on his payments. Manufacturers have as yet made but little progress in that part of the country, and it will probably

be a long time before they are brought to that state to which they have already arrived in the middle and eastern parts of the Union.

Each days experience of the Government of the United States seems to confirm its establishment, and to render it more popular. A ready acquiescence in the laws made under it shews in a strong light the confidence which the people have in their representatives, and in the upright views of those who administer the government. At the time of passing a law imposing a duty on home made spirits, it was vehemently affirmed by many, that such a law could never be executed in the southern States, particularly in Virginia and North Carolina. As this law came in force only on the first of this month little can be said of its effects from experience; but from the best information I could get on my journey respecting its operation on the minds of the people (and I took some pains to obtain information on this point) there remains no doubt but it will be carried into effect not only without opposition, but with very general approbation in those very parts where it was foretold that it would never be submitted to by any one. It is possible, however, and perhaps not improbable that some Demagogue may start up, and produce and get signed some resolutions declaratory of their disapprobation of the measure.

Our public credit stands on that ground which three years ago it would have been considered as a species of madness to have foretold. The astonishing rapidity, with which the newly instituted Bank was filled gives an unexampled proof (here) of the resources of our Countrymen and their confidence in public measures. On the first day of opening the subscription the whole number of shares (20,000) were taken up in one hour, and application made for upwards of 4000 shares more than

were granted by the Institution, besides many others that were coming in from different quarters.

For some time past the western frontiers have been alarmed by depredations committed by some hostile tribes of Indians; but such measures are now in train as will, I presume, either bring them to sue for peace before a stroke is struck at them, or make them feel the effects of an enmity too sensibly to provoke it again unnecessarily, unless, as is much suspected, they are countenanced, abetted, and supported in their hostile views by the B——h. Tho' I must confess I cannot see much prospect of living in tranquillity with them so long as a spirit of land jobbing prevails, and our frontier Settlers entertain the opinion that there is not the same crime (or indeed no crime at all) in killing an Indian as in killing a white man.

You have been informed of the spot fixed on for the seat of Government on the Potomac, and I am now happy to add that all matters between the Proprietors of the soil and the public are settled to the mutual satisfaction of the Parties, and that the business of laying out the city, the grounds for public buildings, walks &c. is progressing under the inspection of Major L'Enfant with pleasing prospects.

Thus much for our american affairs; and I wish I could say as much in favor of circumstances in Europe. But our accounts from thence do not paint the situation of the Inhabitants in very pleasing colours. One part exhibits war and devastation; another preparations for war; a third commotions; a fourth direful apprehensions of commotions; and indeed there seems to be scarcely a nation enjoying uninterrupted, unapprehensive tranquillity.

The example of France will undoubtedly have its effects on other Kingdoms. Poland, by the public papers, appears to have made large and unexpected strides towards liberty, which, if

true, reflects great honor on the present King, who seems to have been the principal promoter of the business.

By the by, I have never received any letter from Mr. Littlepage, or from the King of Poland, which you say Mr. Carmichael informed you were sent to me last summer.

I yesterday had Mr. Jaudennes,[22] who was in this country with Mr. Gardoqui, and is now come over in a public character, presented to me, for the first time by Mr. Jefferson. Colonel Ternant is expected here every day as minister from France.

I am glad to learn that the air of Lisbon agrees so well with you. I sincerely hope you may long, very long enjoy the blessing of health, accompanied with such other blessings as may contribute to your happiness. I have been in the enjoyment of very good health during my journey, and have rather gained flesh upon it. Mrs. Washington desires her best wishes may be presented to you. You are always assured of those of, my dear Sir, etc.[23]

To ROBERT RUTHERFORD

Philadelphia, July 20, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter dated the 13 of December was received while I was on my journey through the southern States, and until my return to this place it has not been in my power to make any reply to it.

Now the public business which has been accumulating for more than three months during my absence, calls for a constant attention, and will barely allow me to acknowledge the recept of such private, letters as have come to my hands in the course of my tour. You will, therefore, readily perceive, my dear Sir, that it is at this time only in my power to say that

[22] José de Jaudenes. He was the Spanish chargés d'affaires.
[23] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

your letter has been received, and to request that you will receive my best thanks for the trouble you have taken to transmit to me your observations on our western frontiers, any information relating to which is at all times very acceptable. With very great regard etc.[24]

To COMTESSE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Philadelphia, July 20, 1791.

Madam: It is but a short time since I had the honor to receive your letter of the 18 of November, in which you interest yourself in behalf of the Baron Closen that he may be admitted a Member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

You must be sensible, Madam, of the great pleasure it would give me to comply with any request which might come from the Countess de Rochambeau, if it was in my power to do it. But I regret that in this instance I cannot please myself by gratifying you, for, at a general meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati, it was resolved to refer all claims and applications from Gentlemen of the French Nation, for admission into the Society to the Counts Rochambeau and D'Estaing, and the Marquis de la Fayette, as it was justly presumed that they were better acquainted with the claims and merits of their Countrymen than the Americans could be, and, since that resolution all applications of this description which have been made to the Society here, have been referred to these Gentlemen. This being the case I flatter myself you will be persuaded Madam that my declining an interference in this instance will not be imputed to a disinclination to oblige you, but to a necessary adherence to impartiality and propriety. With the highest respect, I have the honor etc.[24]

[24]From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, July 24, 1791.

Gentlemen: I have received from Mr. Peter the inclosed letter proposing the erection of Warves at the New City, between Rock Creek and Hamburg. My answer to him is, that the proposition is worthy of consideration, and that the transaction of whatever may concern the public at that place in future being now turned over to you, I have inclosed the letter to you to do thereon whatever you may think best, referring him at the same time to you for an Answer.

The consequences of such Warves as are suggested by Mr. Peter will, no doubt, claim your first attention,[25] next, if they are deemed a desireable undertaking, the means by which the work can be effected with *certainty* and dispatch, and lastly, the true and equitable proportion which ought to be paid by Mr. Peters towards the erection of them. I am etc.[26]

To ROBERT PETER

Philadelphia, July 24, 1791.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 20th. Inst: proposing the building of wharves at the new City, between Rock-Creek and Hamburgh; the proposition certainly is worthy of consideration, and, as the transaction of what may concern the public at that place in future is now turned over to the Commissioners, I enclose your letter to them, to do thereon what they shall think best to them therefore I take the liberty of referring you for an answer, and am etc.[27]

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[25] The ground on which the wharves were to be erected was owned by Robert Peter.

[26] In the writing of Tobias Lear in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

[27] A contemporary copy of this letter is in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, July 28, 1791.

I have, my dear Sir, to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 7 of March and 3 of May, and to thank you for the communications which they contain relative to your public affairs.[28] I assure you I have often contemplated, with great anxiety, the danger to which you are personally exposed by your peculiar and delicate situation in the tumult of the times, and your letters are far from quieting that friendly concern. But to one, who engages in hazardous enterprises for the good of his country, and who is guided by pure and upright views, (as I am sure is the case with you) life is but a secondary consideration.

To a philanthropic mind the happiness of 24 millions of people cannot be indifferent; and by an American, whose country in the hour of distress received such liberal aid from the french, the disorders and incertitude of that Nation are to be peculiarly lamented. We must, however, place a confidence in that Providence who rules great events, trusting that out of confusion he will produce order, and, notwithstanding the dark clouds, which may threaten at present, that right will ultimately be established.

The tumultous populace of large cities are ever to be dreaded. Their indiscriminate violence prostrates for the time all public authority, and its consequences are sometimes extensive and terrible. In Paris we may suppose these tumults are peculiarly disastrous at this time, when the public mind is in a ferment, and when (as is always the case on such occasions) there are

[28] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*. Sparks, however, prints them in his *Correspondence of the American Revolution* and, almost in their entirety, as footnotes in his edition of the *Writings of George Washington*.

not wanting wicked and designing men, whose element is confusion, and who will not hesitate in destroying the public tranquillity to gain a favorite point. But until your Constitution is fixed, your government organized, and your representative Body renovated, much tranquillity cannot be expected; for, until these things are done, those who are unfriendly to the revolution, will not quit the hope of bringing matters back to their former state.

The decrees of the National Assembly respecting our tobacco and oil do not appear to be very pleasing to the people of this country; but I do not presume that any hasty measures will be adopted in consequence thereof; for we have never entertained a doubt of the friendly disposition of the french Nation toward us, and are therefore persuaded that if they have done any thing which seems to bear hard upon us, at a time when the Assembly must have been occupied in very important matters, and which perhaps would not allow time for a due consideration of the subject, they will, in the moment of calm deliberation, alter it and do what is right.

I readily perceive, my dear Sir, the critical situation in which you stand, and never can you have greater occasion to show your prudence, judgment, and magnanimity.

On the 6 of this month I returned from a tour through the southern States, which had employed me for more than three months. In the course of this journey I have been highly gratified in observing the flourishing state of the Country, and the good dispositions of the people. Industry and economy have become very fashionable in these parts, which were formerly noted for the opposite qualities, and the labours of man are assisted by the blessings of Providence. The attachment of all Classes of citizens to the general Government seems to be a pleasing presage of their future happiness and respectability.

The complete establishment of our public credit is a strong mark of the confidence of the people in the virtue of their Representatives, and the wisdom of their measures; and, while in Europe, wars or commotions seem to agitate almost every nation, peace and tranquillity prevail among us, except on some parts of our western frontiers, where the Indians have been troublesome, to reclaim or chastise whom proper measures are now pursuing. This contrast between the situation of the people of the United States, and those of Europe is too striking to be passed over, even by the most superficial observer, and may, I believe, be considered as one great cause of leading the people here to reflect more attentively on their own prosperous state, and to examine more minutely, and consequently approve more fully of the government under which they live, than they otherwise would have done. But we do not wish to be the only people who may taste the sweets of an equal and good government; we look with an anxious eye to the time, when happiness and tranquillity shall prevail in your country, and when all Europe shall be freed from commotions, tumults, and alarms.

Your friends in this country often express their great attachment to you by their anxiety for your safety. Knox, Jay, Hamilton, Jefferson remember you with affection; but none with more sincerity and true attachment than etc.[29]

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Philadelphia, July 28, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have now before me your favors of the 22 of November 1 and 24 of December 1790, and of the 9 of March 1791.

The Plateaux which you had the goodness to procure for me arrived safe, and the account of them has been settled, as you

[29] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

desired, with Mr. Robert Morris. For this additional mark of attention to my wishes you must accept my thanks.

The communications in your several letters, relative to the state of affairs in Europe, are very gratefully received; and I should be glad if it was in my power to reply to them more in detail than I am able to do. But my public duties, which are at all times sufficiently numerous, being now much accumulated by an absence of more than three months from the seat of government, make the present a very busy moment for me.

The change of systems, which have so long prevailed in Europe, will, undoubtedly, affect us in a degree proportioned to our political or commercial connexions with the several nations of it. But I trust we shall never so far lose sight of our own interest and happiness as to become, unnecessarily, a party in their political disputes. Our local situation enables us to keep that state with them, which otherwise could not, perhaps, be preserved by human wisdom. The present moment seems pregnant with great events; But, as you observe, it is beyond the ken of mortal foresight to determine what will be the result of those changes which are either making or contemplated in the general system of Europe. Altho' as fellow-men we sincerely lament the disorders, oppressions, and incertitude which frequently attend national events, and which our European brethren must feel; yet we cannot but hope that it will terminate very much in favor of the Rights of man; and that a change there will be favorable to this Country I have no doubt. For, under the former system we were seen either in the distresses of war, or viewed after the peace in a most unfavorable light through the medium of our distracted state. In neither point could we appear of much consequence among Nations. And should affairs continue in Europe in the same state they were when these impressions respecting us were received, it would not be an

easy matter to remove the prejudices imbibed against us. A change of system will open a new view of things, and we shall then burst upon them, as it were with redoubled advantages.

Should we under the present state of affairs form connexions, other than we now have, with any European powers, much must be considered in effecting them, on the score of our increasing importance as a Nation; and, at the same time, should a treaty be formed with a Nation whose circumstances may not at this moment be very bright much delicacy would be necessary in order to shew that no undue advantages were taken on that account. For unless treaties are mutually beneficial to the Parties, it is in vain to hope for a continuance of them beyond the moment when the one which conceives itself to be overreached is in a situation to break off the connexion. And I believe it is among nations as with individuals, the party taking advantage of the distresses of another will lose infinitely more in the opinion of mankind and in subsequent events than he will gain by the stroke of the moment.

In my late tour through the southern States I experienced great satisfaction in seeing the good effects of the general Government in that part of the Union. The people at large have felt the security which it gives and the equal justice which it administers to them. The Farmer, the Merchant, and the Mechanic have seen their several interests attended to, and from thence they unite in placing a confidence in their representatives, as well as in those in whose hands the execution of the laws is placed. Industry has there taken place of idleness, and economy of dissipation. Two or three years of good crops, and a ready market for the produce of their lands, has put every one in good humour; and, in some instances they even impute to the Government what is due only to the goodness of Providence.

The establishment of public credit is an immense point gained

in our national concerns. This I believe exceeds the expectation of the most sanguine among us; and a late instance, unparalleled in this Country, has been given of the confidence reposed in our measures by the rapidity with which the subscriptions to the Bank of the United States were filled. In two hours after the books were opened by the Commissioners the whole number of shares were taken up, and 4000 more applied for than were allowed by the Institution. This circumstance was not only pleasing as it related to the confidence in government; but as it exhibited an unexpected proof of the resources of our Citizens.

In one of my letters to you the account which I gave of the number of inhabitants which would probably be found in the United States on enumeration, was too large. The estimate was then founded on the ideas held out by the Gentlemen in Congress of the population of their several States, each of whom (as was very natural) looking thro' a magnifying glass would speak of the greatest extent, to which there was any probability of their numbers reaching. Returns of the Census have already been made from several of the States and a tolerably just estimate has been formed now in others, by which it appears that we shall hardly reach four millions; but one thing is certain our *real* numbers will exceed, greatly, the official returns of them; because the religious scruples of some, would not allow them to give in their lists; the fears of others that it was intended as the foundation of a tax induced them to conceal or diminished theirs, and thro' the indolence of the people, and the negligence of many of the Officers numbers are omitted. The authenticated number however is far greater, I believe, than has ever been allowed in Europe, and will have no small influence in enabling them to form a more just opinion of our present and growing importance than has yet been entertained there.

This letter goes with one from Mr. Jefferson, to which I must refer you for what respects your public transactions, and I shall only add to it the repeated assurances of regard and affection etc.[30]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Thursday Afternoon, July 28, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have just given the enclosed Letters an acknowledgment, and was about to file them; but not recollecting whether I had ever shewn them to you, or not, I now, as they contain information, and opinions on Men and things, hand them to you for your perusal. By comparing them with others, and the predictions at the times they were written with the events which have happened, you will be able to judge of the usefulness of such communications from the person communicating them. I am etc.[31]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

United States, July 29, 1791.

Upon a full consideration of the reasons offered by Mr. Short, in his correspondence with you, for removing the restrictions laid upon him by his present instructions, so far as relates to his not opening a loan for more than a certain sum, and not being allowed to open a new Loan until the terms of the preceding one shall have been ratified here. I have thought it expedient and for the interest of the United States that those restrictions should be removed. And I do hereby authorise you to inform Mr. Short that he may open at his discretion loans for the United States, at such times and places, and for such sums as he may find adviseable within the limitations of the respective Laws authorising these Loans.[30]

[30] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[31] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, July 30, 1791.

Sir: I have given your letter to Mr. Short, dated the 28th. instt. an attentive perusal. As you place confidence in his judgment and discretion, I think it is very proper that the sentiments which are expressed in the cyphered part of it, should be handed to him;[32] and approve the communicating of them to him accordingly.[33]

To CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON

Philadelphia, July 31, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 16 only got to my hands on Friday last. Not having my private papers at this place, to refer to, I can say nothing with precision as to the sum, or sums which is due from me on account of my purchase of Clifton's land. It is highly probable, however, that the information given to you by your Attorney is right. Be the amount, however, what it may, I shall be ready at any moment, to pay the same in cash at this place, or in post notes at Baltimore, or Alexandria, as you shall direct.

But you will please to recollect, my dear Sir, that there is a pre-requisite to this payment, which was the original cause, why the money was not paid at the time of the sale. I mean a release of the mortgage, or some conveyance by which the Purchaser should be assured of the legal, or a secure title to the land.

[32] A press copy of Jefferson's letter to William Short is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. The ciphered portion assures Short that the United States has no design of conquest against the West Indies, and discusses at length the prohibitions of commerce against the United States that exist in those islands.

[33] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The particulars relative to this transaction are a little out of my recollection at present, but in substance I believe they stand thus. That the land belonging to Clifton, now held by me, was mortgaged as security to, among others, Mr. Ignatius Digges who, in this case, acted under, or would take no step without applying to, Mr. Carroll,[34] your father; and was the only one of several Mortgagees who refused to quit claim of the land, by which means my legal title to it is yet incomplete.

By to-morrow's post I will write home for these papers; and, as I have observed before, as soon as the impediment is removed, or I am in any manner made secure, the money shall be paid in either of the ways before mentioned; for it cannot be more your wish than it is my desire to bring the matter to a close. With much esteem etc.[35]

To THOMAS JOHNSON

Philadelphia, August 7, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favored with your letters of the 27 and 30 of July; the last of which came to hand while the judges of the Supreme Court were with me on an invitation to dinner.

I took this opportunity of laying your letter before the Chief Justice, (as you mentioned your having written to him and to Mr. Wilson[36] on the subject) in order that it might be communicated to the other Judges. After a few minutes consultation together, the Chief Justice informed me that the arrangement had been, or would be so agreed upon that you might be wholly exempted from performing this tour of duty at that time; and I take the present occasion to observe that an opinion prevails pretty generally among the Judges, as well as others

[34] Charles Carroll.
[35] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[36] James Wilson.

who have turned their minds to the subject, against the expediency of continuing the Circuits of the Associate Judges, and that it is expected some alterations in the Judicial system will be brought forward at the next session of Congress, among which this may be one.

Upon considering the arrangement of the Judges with respect to the ensuing circuit and the probability of future relief from these disagreeable tours, I thought it best to direct your commission to be made out and transmitted to you, which has accordingly been done,[37] and I have no doubt but that the public will be benefitted, and the wishes of your friends gratified, by your acceptance. With sentiments of very great regard, &c.[38]

To THOMAS JOHNSON

Philadelphia, August 8, 1791.

Dear Sir: It appearing to me proper that the Commissioners[39] should be apprised of the pretensions, signified in the enclosed letter, I send it to them accordingly, that such prudent use may be made of the information as to them shall seem fit.

I have not given, nor shall I give any answer, at least for the present, to the Writer of it; and no person is knowing to my having received such a letter. I am etc.[40]

To WILLIAM MOULTRIE

Philadelphia, August 9, 1791.

I have had the pleasure, my dear Sir, of receiving your friendly letter of the 10th. of last month, and I reply with

[37] As Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.
[38] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[39] Of the District of Columbia.
[40] From the *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

affectionate regard to your congratulations and kind wishes. A slight indisposition, since my return, (occasioned by a tumor, not much unlike the one I had at N. York in 1789) of which I am now recovered, does not forbid the expectation that my health may be ultimately improved by my tour thro' the southern States. My happiness has certainly been promoted by the excursion, and nowhere in a greater degree than while resident among my fellow-citizens of south Carolina. To their attentions (yours in particular) I shall always confess myself much obliged, and particularly flattered by the regards of your fair Compatriots, to whom I wish, upon every occasion, to be remembered with grateful respect.

I shall realize your promise of a visit with sincere satisfaction. Till then, and always I beg you to believe me etc.[41]

To WILLIAM DARKE

(Private)

Philadelphia, August 9, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 24 ulto. Regarding its contents, altho' relating to objects of public import, as private communication, I shall reply to and remark upon them, with that candor which my personal esteem and my public wishes strongly enjoin.

I need not tell you that my regret is seriously excited by learning that any cause of discontent should exist, either on your own part, or that of your Officers, with General Butler, and it is hardly necessary to express my earnest wish that it may speedily subside, and be entirely done away. But, as I rely greatly on your disposition to advance the public interest, tho' even by the relinquishment of private opinions, I shall offer to your

[41] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

consideration some remarks which I am persuaded will have weight with you, and induce your influence with your Officers to dismiss their discontents, and to think only of their public duty.

Let it in the first place be remembered that one common cause engages your service, and requires all your exertions; it is the interest of your country. To that interest all inferior considerations must yield. As an apology for the seeming inattention of a commanding Officer it should be considered that the variety of objects, which engage him, may produce an appearance of neglect, by no means intended. In General Butler's particular instance some allowance should be made for the effects of bodily indisposition, combined with the cares of his station; and I am satisfied no one, either from temper or reflection, will more cheerfully make this allowance than yourself.

On this belief I rest an expectation, that every uneasiness will be composed, and that the public service will be proceeded in with harmony and zeal. The Secretary of War has directed a board of Officers to decide the question of rank between you and Colonel Gibson[42] and others. I shall at all times be happy to evince the sincere esteem, with which I am etc.[43]

*To BENJAMIN LINCOLN

(Private)

Philadelphia, August 14, 1791.

My dear Sir: As it never has been my intention to bestow double Offices on the same person, and my design that those Marshalls who have received Appointments under the late Revenue Act should hold the former (i.e. the Marshalls office)

[42] Col. George Gibson, of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Levies.
[43] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

until the first of the present month (the time by which the Census was to be returned, or until this business should be accomplished) and no longer, it behooves me to look for a successor to Mr. Jackson in the office of Marshall, for the District of Massats. How beneficial this office may be, I know not. At present, the mere emolument of it can not be, I should suppose, an object; but as a step, it may be desired by such as have nothing better in prospect. The purpose of this letter, my good Sir, is to request the favor of you to discover, first, whether General Cobb[44] would accept of the appointment; and 2dly, in case he is disinclined to it, if General Brooke[45] would act in it. I do not incline to issue the Commission to either of them, or to any other on an uncertainty; because, the refusal of Commissions make a bad impression on the public mind. Having observed this, and it occurring to you that the first of August is passed, the expediency of an early answer will readily appear; and I shall be thankful for receiving it accordingly. I am etc.[46]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, August 14, 1791.

Mr. Whiting: From the last letter I have rece[ived] from my nephew the Major,[47] I presume he is, 'ere this, on his tour to Berkeley; I shall therefore during his absence, address my letters on ma[tters] which relate to my concerns at Mount Vernon, [to] you. And do request that the weekly reports may be transmitted to me as usual, with such other accounts of your progress in sowing and prospects (with respect to the growing and harvest[ing] Crops); and seasonableness of the weather

[44] David Cobb.
[45] John Brooks.
[46] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.
[47] George Augustine Washington.

[as] you may conceive it will be satisfactory for [me] to be informed of.

From the heat and drought of the Summer, I should conceive that the rare-ri[pe] Corn in the Meadow at the Mill, now is, or very soon will be, hard enough to gather. Unde[r] this persuation, and that the ground would be b[est] sown with grass-seeds, and would lay more smooth and fit for the scythe thereafter, I sugges[t] it to you (if you find it can be done in time and with tolerable convenience) to gathe[r] the Fodder that is on *that* Corn as soon as pos[s]sible, and Immediately after doing so, to remo[ve] both Corn and stalk, as they are left standing to the edges of the field, to be there stacked [and] set on end, if the first (that is the Corn) can[t] at that time be taken from the latter (that [of] the stalk) with safety; and then, with the he[avy] Oxe Harrow to level the ground before it is sown with grass-seeds. My reasons for [de]siring that both Corn and stalks may be taken [out] together are, first, because if the Corn is not sufficiently hard and dry when this happens, their will be nutriment sufficient in the stalks to effect it, without suffering it to dry too fast; and 2dly. because by such removal the ground may be laid perfectly level, and freed from everything that will incommode the sowing of the Seed, and the cutting of the grass, thereafter. Do not suffer it to escape you, that the grass-seeds in that meadow ought by all means to be sown by, or before the end of this month, that the plants may be up and obtain strength before Winter; otherwise, the ground being low and apt to heave, they might perish in the course of the Winter by the wet and frosts.

It is my earnest wish (as I presume you have already been informed by the Major) that all my Grain and grass-seeds intended for Autumn sowing should now be got into the ground as soon as possible. I am fully satisfied that every moment this

business is delayed after the present period, will prove injurious to the ensuing Crop; especially in ground that is not highly manured, or which is not fresh, or naturally very strong. I shall readly grant that where there is but little to sow, the temperature of the weather and state of the ground may be consulted; but where much is to be put in, the season, be the weather as it may, ought not to be slipped. Besides, as the weather has been dry hitherto, the probability of a wet autumn is the greater.

If the Major did not engage an Overseer for Dougue run before he left home, it wd. be proper for you to do it, in case one should offer in his absence who can be well recommended. A Man having a wife with a small family would be prefered either to a single man, or one with a large family. The Major has informed me of the terms on which he proposes to agree, and I agree to them. I am of opinion if the old house on No. 2 at that Plantation cannot be made to answer for the accomodation of the overseer, that the one at the Mansion house (commonly called Richards, which originally came from that place) should be carried back, and fixed on the spot marked for it by the Major. The materials of this House are good, and the house itself is of sufficient size, and can be removed with much more ease than the frame of a new one can be got. It is of no use where it is, and must soon go to decay without an Inhabitant; a removal of it therefore is proper, and desirable in any point of view. A Brick chimney must be put to it after it gets to Dogue run instead of the wood one it now has; and when undertaken, a Bricklayer more skilful than Tom Davis must assist him and Muclus in the erection of it.

When Davis goes about the other Wing of the Green house, direct him to be careful that the ground is truly leveled, and to see also that the joints of the new and old brick work range exactly; and moreover, that the Walls are carried to the same

height at both ends, and are extendg to the Garden Gates; into the Jamb of which the end wall is to be worked.

If Will is not likely to provide Shoes enough for the Negros in due Season, aid must be had elsewhere; and I desire, if the clover which was sown with the Wheat at the Mansion house is not sufficiently thick on the ground, that you will not spare seed in making good the dificency.

I perceive by the last report which has been received, that Wheat has been tread out in a yard at the Ferry; where a good Barn floor is, I did not expect this would be the case; and I perceive also that Harrows have been carried to Mr. Lund Washington's Smith; this ought not to be; nothing should go there that my own Smiths can do; and for Harrows, I should suppose they are competent.

How is your Wheaten crop likely to turn out? Is the 335 bushls. as reported to have been deposited in the Grainery at the Ferry and French's, all that was made at those Plantations? If so, the Crop must be short indeed. I am etc.

P. S. In the body of this letter I mentioned getting Fodder in the Mill meadow *only* for the reason assigned, but it is of most essential importance, considering the scarcity of Hay, that the whole of it should be got in the greenest and most perfect state possible, without injuring the Corn.[48]

*To ARTHUR YOUNG

Philadelphia, August 15, 1791.

Sir: That I may not be thought inattentive to your favor of the 25th. of Jany., which came to my hands about ten days

[48] From the original in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union. In the first page of the original the lines are incomplete, which deficiencies are supplied in brackets.

ago only, I avail myself of the first Packet since the receipt of it to inform you that the Annals, and Chicorium Intybus have got safe to my hands. As set of the former I have presented in your name, agreeably to your request, to the Agricultural Society in this City. For the other sett; for the Seeds; and for the manufactured Wool from the fleece I sent you, I pray you to accept my best thanks.

With astonishment hardly to be conceived, I read in No. 86 of your Annals, the account of the taxes with which you are burthened. Had the account come from dubitable authority, the reality of such a tax would not only have been questioned but *absolutely* disbelieved; for I can assure you, Sir, that there is nothing in this Country that has the semblance of it.

I do not, however, mean to dwell on this, or any other part of your letter at this time, the purpose of my writing to you now, is to acknowledge the receipt of the things you had the goodness to send to me, and to assure you, that with great pleasure I will forward, in a short time, such information with respect to the prices of Lands, Stock, Grain, amount of taxes &ca. &ca. as will enable you to form a pretty accurate idea of the present state and future prospects of this Country. In the meanwhile, I believe I may confidently add, that although our Agriculture, manufactures and commerce are progressing; although our taxes are light; although our laws are in a fair way of being administered well, and our liberties and properties secured on a solid basis by the general Government having acquired more and more consistency, strength and respectability as it moves on; yet, that no material change in the prices of the above articles has taken place, except in a few instances of Land, under peculiar advantages; nor is it probable there will be in the latter whilst there is such an immense territory back of us for the people to resort to.

In a word, Sir, when you come to receive full answers to your several enquiries, I am inclined to believe that you will not be unfavorably impressed, or think an establishment in the United States ineligible to those whose views are extended beyond the limits of their own Country.

Having closed my corrispondence with Wakelin Welch Esqr. & Son, I have to request that your communications to me in future may pass through the hands of Mr. Johnson,[49] Consul for the United States in London. With best wishes, and sentiments of much esteem etc.[50]

To —— PERKINS

Philadelphia, August 18, 1791.

Sir: I communicated to the President the information you gave me this afternoon of your determination respecting the Jacks, and he directs me to inform you that having offered the young Jack at £500 virginia currency, he conceives himself now bound by that offer if you should think proper to close with it at this time, and that it is *possible* he may accept it, if you should determine upon taking him as soon as you get to Connecticut, and give him immediate information thereof. But he shall not consider himself in any degree *bound* to accept it after you leave this place. The President says there is scarcely any thing that would prevail upon him to part with the Knight of Malta, as he intends breeding from him altogether next season. And that the reason of his wishing for a speedy decision respecting the young Jack is that he has great expectation, and indeed is under a conditional agreement to let the old Jack go to Charleston in South Carolina, from which he is in daily expectation of Colonel Washington sending for him.

[49] Joshua Johnson, of Maryland.

[50] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

Should this be the case before he parts with the young Jack, he would suffer him to go; but then he would not dispose of the young Jack. Should he part with the young Jack before the old One is sent for, he will not permit him to go; because he would on no account be left without one or the other. I am etc.[51]

To WILLIAM TILGHMAN

Philadelphia, August 18, 1791.

Sir: Your favor of the 14 ultimo came duly to hand, but a confinement of some weeks,[52] and much business since, has prevented my acknowledging the receipt of it until now.

It has not appeared from any papers I have yet seen that that settlement, which seems to have taken place between Messrs. Chalmers and George [53] was ever communicated to Mr. West.[54] To me it never was. I will, however, again write to the Gentleman, who has them in keeping, to make further search, and as soon as his answer is received, I will trouble you with another letter on this subject.

In the meanwhile I offer you my thanks for the trouble this business must have given you, and for the assurance of your readiness to prosecute it further. I am etc.[55]

To JAMES KEITH

Philadelphia, August 19, 1791.

Dear Sir: You will perceive by the enclosed letter how the matter stands between the Executors of Colonel Thomas Colvill and Mr. Sydney George.

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[51] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[52] See Washington's letter to William Moultrie, Aug. 9, 1791, *ante.*

[53] Sydney George, of Cecil County, Md., and George Chalmers, attorney for the executors of the estate of Thomas Colvill.

[54] John West.

[55] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

If you think it will be of any avail to make further research among the papers of the deceased Mr. West for an entry of this transaction, or, to prosecute any new enquiry of his Son respecting it, I would thank you for so doing.

At any rate please to advise the steps you think I had best pursue to bring this *particular* matter to a close, and to inform me whether a judgment has been obtained against the Assignees of Semple upon their bond? In that cast, whether for principal and interest or principal only? and, when you think I shall be able to close my administration of that estate, it being a matter I am exceedingly anxious to effect. I am etc.[56]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sunday, August 21, 1791.

Dear Sir: At eight 'oclock A. M tomorrow, I set out for Mr. Powells[57] farm, to see the operaton of Colo. Anderson's threshing Machine. I Breakfast, you know, at half past Seven; if it is convenient to take that in your way, I should be glad to see you at it.

When you have read the enclosed letters I will converse with you on the subject of them. I am etc.[58]

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[56] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[57] Samuel Powel.

[58] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

The following addition to George Augustine Washington's agreement with Thomas Green, Nov. 9, 1790, in the writing of Washington, is filed under Aug. 23, 1791, in the *Washington Papers:* "It is hereby agreed by and between the Parties to the within Agreement, that the said Agreement shall continue and be in force for and during the term of one year from the expiration thereof, which is not to terminate until the time which has been lost, by the within named Thomas Green during its existence shall have been fully compleated and re-paid. And the parties each to the other doth hereby bind themselves to the performance of the respective Covenants in as full and ample a manner as if an entire new set of Articles was subscribed to. And on the part of the said Thomas Green it is farther agreed, if it shall be found that he addicts himself to drink, idles his time, or becomes in any manner negligent of, or inattentive to his duty that it shall and may be lawful to discharge him the said Green at any time without infracting the letter or Spirit of this contract." With the agreement is the

To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, August 25, 1791.

Dear Sir: Some enquiries having been made of me by important Characters on the state of agriculture in America, comprehending its several relations, and intended to ascertain the value of our lands, with their yield in the several kinds of grain, grass, etc., the prices of farming stock, the prices of produce, etc., together with a list of the Taxes in the different states, which may in any way affect the Farmers.

As an object highly interesting to our country, I have determined to render the most just and satisfactory answers that the best information, which I can obtain from different parts of the United States will enable me to give.

With this view my confidence in your disposition and knowledge leads me to offer to your enquiry and to request from your intelligence as early information as may be convenient on the following heads.

1. The fee simple prices of farming lands in picked parts of the State of Virginia, as are neither so near to large towns as to enhance their value nor so distant from market as greatly to reduce it, or to make the situation inconvenient. In your answers to this enquiry, be pleased to note generally the situations, the soil, and if it be practicable, the proportions of arable, pasture, and wood land.

2. The rents of the same lands, when leased, and, generally, the terms of lease.

3. The average product of the same lands in wheat, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, beans, pease, potatoes, turnips, grasses,

following, also in Washington's writing: "The said Thos. Green is also to keep an exact acct. of all the Plank, Scantling, Shingles and other Materials which are or may be purchased for, and used in the buildings of the said G. W; and will be very careful to prevent embezzlement, or waste in working up any of them."

hemp, flax etc., in the common mode of husbandry now practised.

4. The average prices of these articles when sold at the Farm, or carried to the nearest market.

5. The average prices of good working horses, working Oxen, milch-cows, sheep, hogs, poultry, etc.

6. The average price of beef, pork, mutton, veal, and butter and cheese in the neighbourhood, or at the nearest market Towns.

7. The price of wrought iron, whence the prices of farming utensils may be inferred.

8. A list of the taxes laid in the State of Virginia.

The tendency of this enquiry will be my apology for the trouble it may give you. With great regard, I am etc.

P. S. If you were to confine yourself to the Counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, Berkeley, Prince William and Fauquier, or even to the three first, my object will be answered by these enquiries of *you*.[59]

To SAMUEL VAUGHAN

Philadelphia, August, 25, 1791.

Dear Sir: At the same time that I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10 of May, I must beg your acceptance of my best thanks for the publications which accompanied it.

I am glad to learn that the good opinion first entertained of Mr. Rumsey and his inventions still continues, and I sincerely hope as well for his own emolument and the benefit of mankind, as for the credit of our country that he may surmount the

[59] In the writing of William Jackson. The P. S. is in the writing of Washington. From a photostat of the original in the possession of W. S. Johns and Cornelia Johns Grice, of Norfolk, Va. (1932). This same letter, minus, of course, the postscript, and with the necessary change in the name of the State, was sent to Philip Schuyler in New York, Thomas Lowrey in New Jersey, Thomas Hartley in Pennsylvania, and Thomas Johnson in Maryland.

obstacles thrown in his way, and receive such consideration as his merits demand.

It is with peculiar satisfaction I can inform you that our public affairs are still in a prosperous train, unclouded by any gloomy prospects of interruption. The convulsed state of Europe at the present moment cannot fail of attaching every American more strongly to his own country, and government; while every heart must be impressed with lively gratitude towards the supreme Ruler of events upon a recollection of the circumstances which have brought us to our present political situation.

Wishing that health and uninterrupted tranquillity may attend you to the close of your days. I am etc.[60]

To CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON

Philadelphia, August 28, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 11 instant came duly to hand, and I have also received the papers from Mount Vernon which, in my letter of the 31st. of July, I informed you I had written for.

Enclosed you have an exact copy of the decree of the Court of Chancery in Virginia, under which I became the purchaser of Clifton's land. I likewise send you the opinion of the Attorney-General of the United States upon it, and other papers which have been laid before him relative to this business.

By the decree it appears that the sums of £243.13/1 and £67.4/7 Virginia currency were ordered to be paid to Messrs. Carroll and Digges; but then the cost of suit viz 4536 lbs. of tobacco at two pence p lb. (so settled by the Commissioners) and 50/. were, by the Decree, to be deducted therefrom, and paid to the Plaintiff, Clifton, and this having been done the sum

[60] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of £67.4/7. is reduced to £26.18/7 which together with the sterling sum of £243.13/1 I am willing and ready to pay the instant a proper conveyance is made to me and the bond is delivered up agreeably to the requisites of the Court. Nay, Sir, if payment at the time mentioned in your letter of the 16 of July is more convenient to you, it shall be made upon the passing of your bond to me, ensuring a compliance with the above requisites; or giving an indemnification if they are not; for I have no desire to withhold the money from you one moment.

By the laws of Virginia, to which this transaction is subject, all sterling debts are to be discharged at 33 1/3 p cent which makes the sum of £243.13/1 when turned into Virginia currency £324.17/5, and this added to £26.18/7. makes 1172 2/3 dollars if my calculations are right.

With great esteem etc.

P. S. In procuring evidence to the Deed it would be well to recollect Characters who attend the Courts in Alexandria, for it is there the record of it must be.[61]

To OLIVER EVANS[62]

Philadelphia, August 29, 1791.

Sir: The President has been informed by his manager at Mount Vernon that the work of his mill is in such a stage as not to admit of any delay in erecting your improvements without stopping the whole progress of the work, which at this time would be a serious inconvenience. The mill-wright who has been employed in repairing the President's mill has been to view your improvements at the Ochoquan mills, and with the insight he has obtained from that view, aided by a plate of the

[61] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[62] Then at Wilmington, Del.

improvements, he has no doubt of his being able to execute the work completely, and he has the character of being an excellent workman; but, as the President is desirous of having it done in the most perfect manner without a hazard of its not answering the purpose fully, he wishes to know if you still hold your determination of going into that part of the Country as you mentioned your intention of doing so, and in case you should, and would go on *immediately*, he will give directions to the mill wright to wait your arrival before any thing is done to the improvements. But if you do not go *immediately* the President must give orders for the person now engaged to go on with the work himself, as the season will admit of no delay.

Let me know whether you go to Virginia directly or not, that if you should a letter might be sent to you on Wednesday for Mount Vernon. I am etc.[63]

To THE POSTMASTER GENERAL[64]

United States, August 29, 1791.

Sir: The President of the United States commands me to inform you, that he can have no objection to the wish which you expressed in your letter of yesterday to him, of your being absent from the seat of Government for three or four weeks, presuming that you are sufficiently acquainted with the nature of the Office in which you are engaged, to enable you to form a proper judgment of the time when you should return.

With respect to the Contracts for carrying the mail the ensuing year, the President commands me to inform you, that he shall take the matter into consideration, and will let you know his determination upon it when you return to this city, which,

[63] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[64] Timothy Pickering.

according to the usual time of making arrangements therefor, will be in due season. In the mean time, the President observes, that the general post Office being considered as a branch of the revenue department, it is his wish that in all matters of arrangement relative thereto, a communication may be had with the Secretary of the Treasury, and more especially in the present instance, as the President will probably be in Virginia at the time of your return to this City.[65]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Monday Morning, August 29, 1791.

Dear Sir: The enclosed for Mr. Young,[66] I pray you to put under cover to Mr. Johnson,[67] the other for Mr. Vaughan[68] may go in like manner, or otherwise, as you may think best; both however by the Packet.

The letter for Mr. Carroll[69] I also return, besides which, were you to write a line or two to Mr. Johnson, addressed to the care of the Postmaster in Baltimore, *it might be* a mean of giving him earlier notice of the intended meeting. The Plan of Carrollsburgh sent me by D—— Carroll[69] it will be necessary for you to take along with you. To settle something with respect to *that* place and Hambg. which will not interfere with the genl. Plan is difficult, but essential. There are other Papers also which it may be useful for you to have. Mode of improving, regulations, &ca. &ca. will be subjects to occupy your thoughts upon. I am etc.[70]

[65] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[66] Notley Young.
[67] Thomas Johnson.
[68] Samuel Vaughan.
[69] Daniel Carroll.
[70] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, August 29, 1791.

Mr. Whiting: In a letter which I wrote to you on friday last, I acknowledged the receipt of yours of the 22d, and informed you that I should again write as on this day, by the Post, who would also be the bearer of the materials for the Bolting Chest.

The latter is accordingly sent, directed to the care of the Post Master in Alexandria, and hope it will be in time for the Work of Mr. Ball.[71]

In my last, I informed you that I approv'd of the Carpenters going on with the house at Dogue run, agreeably to the first plan, as Richards house would do very well for an Overseers house at Muddy hole, where one was much wanting, this I repeat; but in my opinion, before they had got any new scantling for the first mentioned house, they ought to have pulled down the old one (called Wades) in No. 2 at that place, ascertained how much of those materials could, with propriety be worked into the new, and then, to have compleated what it would lack from the Woods. If this has not been done, that house as has been the fate of all the rest, under similar circumstances, will be lost; as my negros dismantle them as their occasions require, without leave, and without scruple.

If Colo. Mason, or Mr. Chichester, gives the person who has applied to be Overlooker of that place, a good character, it will be sufficient; as they are proper judges of the requisites, and will not, I dare say, advance things to serve him that are not warranted by facts. His getting a wife will be no objection, as it will induce him from inclination, to do what he ought to be obliged by articles, to agree to, that is, to be always at home.

[71] John Ball, a millwright.

The reasons which you have assigned for treading out Wheat at the Ferry, are satisfactory, as they also are for Sowing the grass-seeds in the Mill meadow before the Corn is taken off; for I am clearly in sentiment with you, that it is high time that grass-seeds for Autumn sowing were in the ground. I am much pleased to hear that your Wheat seeding is so near completion; but the acct. given of the grounds getting dry again, is much to be lamented, as it happens at a very critical time for most things, especially for Corn.

As Mrs. Washington and myself expect to be at Mount Vernon by, or before the end of next month, I request that you would pay particular attention to the Meats, that I may have such as are fat, and proper for the Table while I am at home which will be till the middle of October; when I shall be under a necessity of returning to this City again. By fat meats, I mean Mutton, Lamb, Veal (if there are any calves young enough); perhaps a small Beef also. I am etc.[72]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

[August 29, 1791]

Will circumstances render a postponement of the Sale of Lots in the Federal City advisable? If not

2. Where ought they to be made.

Will it in that case, or even without it, be necessary or prudent to attempt to borrow money to carry on the difft. works in the City?

Whether ought the building of a bridge over the Eastern branch to be attempted; the Canal set about; and Mr. Peter's proposition with respect to wharves gone into *now*, or postponed until our funds are better ascertained and become productive?

[72] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

At what time can the several Proprietors claim, with propriety, payment for the public squares wch. is marked upon their respective tracts?

Ought there to be any wood houses in the town?

7. What sort of Brick or Stone Houses should be built; and of wht height; especially on the principal Streets or Avenues?

When ought the public buildings to be begun, and in what manner had the materials best be provided?

How ought they to be promulgated, so as to draw plans from skilful Architects? and what would be the best mode of carrying on the Work?

Ought not Stoups,[73] and projections of every sort and kind into the Streets, to be prohibited *absolutely?*

11. What compromise can be made with the Lot holders in Hamburgh and Carrollsburgh by which the plan of the Federal City may be preserved?

Ought not the several Land holders to be called upon to ascertain their respective bounderies previous to the Sale of Lots?

13. Would it not be advisable to have the Federal district as laid out (comprehending the plan of the Town) engraved in one piece?[74]

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[73] Front doorsteps and platform.

[74] This was one of the papers sent to Jefferson on August 29 for consideration by him and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. The queries are in column on the left of a folio sheet. The decisions, or answers, are in Jefferson's writing in the right-hand column. Among the decisions reached was one that "no house wall higher than 35. feet in any part of the town; none lower than that on any of the avenues." Also that "Names of streets, alphabetically one way, and numerically the other. The former divided into North and South letters, the latter East and West numbers from the Capitol" and "Name of city and territory. city of Washington and territory of Columbia." Jefferson returned this document to Washington, in his letter of September 8 from Georgetown, which is in the *Washington Papers.* (See frontispiece, vol. 32, for Building Regulations and Terms of Sale of Lots in the National Capital to the Public, October, 1792.)

On August 30 Lear wrote to the Secretary of State: "The fifteen enclosed Patents, having received the signature of the President of the United States, are, at the request of the Attorney General, transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State by Tobias Lear. S. P. U. S. N. B. The Patents were for the following person. vizt. 1 for Englebert Cruse; 6 for James Rumsey; 2 for Nathan Read; 3 for John Stevens, Jr.; 1 for John Fitch; 1 for James Macomb and 1 for Jno. Biddis & Thos. Bedwell." Lear's letter

RATIFICATION OF THE DUTCH LOAN

City of Philadelphia, September 1, 1791.

To all whom it may concern, greeting, Whereas the Legislature of the U. S. of America, by their Acts passed on the fourth and twelfth days of August, one thousand seven hundred and ninety, authorised the President of the U. S. to borrow on their behalf certain sums of money therein named, or any lesser sums, for the purposes therein stated, and to make contracts respecting the foreign Debt of the U. S.; and the President thereupon gave to Alexander Hamilton esquire, Secretary of the Treasury of the U. S., full powers by himself, or any person appointed by him, to carry the purposes of the said Acts into execution, and the said Alexander Hamilton in pursuance of the said powers, having authorised Messieurs William and John Willink, and Nicholas and Jacob Van Staphorst & Hubbard in that behalf, the said William and John Willink, and Nicholas and Jacob Van Staphorst & Hubbard have accordingly entered into Contract with certain persons for the Loan of three millions of Florins which contract was made known, and acknowledged by the said William Willink for William and John Willink, and by the said Nicholas Van Staphorst for Nicholas and Jacob Van Staphorst & Hubbard before Petrus Cornelius Nahuys Notary at Amsterdam in the N. Netherlands on the twelfth day of November in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety, and is in the words following, to wit:

[Here follows the text of the contract]

Now Know Ye, that the President of the United States of America having seen and considered the said Contract, hath

is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The first patent granted by the United States was to Francis Bailey, of Philadelphia, Jan. 29, 1791, for a type punch to prevent counterfeiting. This was signed by the President and by the Secretary of State. A facsimile is in the Library of Congress.

ratified and confirmed, and by these presents doth ratify and confirm the same and every article thereof.

In testimony whereof he has caused the seal of the U. S. to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with his hand.[75]

*To THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Philadelphia, September 4, 1791.

My dear Sir: The indisposition, and consequent absence from Mount Vernon of my Nephew, Majr Washington, to whom the care of my private business is entrusted, makes it indispensably necessary for me to go home before the meeting of Congress. My stay there will be longer or shorter according to circumstances; but it cannot exceed the middle of October as I must be back before the meeting of that Body.

Will you permit me, my dear Sir, to make a similar request to the one I did last year, and to pray that your ideas may not be confined to matters merely Judicial, but extended to all other topics which have, or may occur to you as fit subjects for general or private Communications.[76] With sincere esteem and affectionate regard, I am[77]

To OLIVER EVANS

Philadelphia, September 4, 1791.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 1st. instant, which has been duly received, the President directs me to inform you that

[75] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On September 1 the President published a similar ratification confirming a loan of 2,500,000 florins, negotiated by William Short, Chargé d'Affaires at the Court of France, at Amsterdam, through the same agents as above. This ratification is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[76] Jay's reply to this letter (September 23) is in the *Washington Papers* and is printed by Sparks in the appendix to volume 10 of the *Writings of George Washington*.

[77] From a facsimile of the original, reproduced in Frank Monoghan's *John Jay* (Bobbs-Merrill: 1935).

having procured of Mr. Leslie a patent for erecting your improvements at his mills, he shall forward it this day to Mount Vernon with directions for the Mill Wright to proceed in the execution of the work, for it will admit of no further delay, the work of the mill being in that state as to make it necessary to erect the improvements now or lay them aside altogether.

As the man who is now engaged in the President's mill seems fully confident of his being able to execute the whole of the work in a proper manner the President thinks it would not be necessary for your brother to attend to it, which must be a considerable encrease of the expence. As you mentioned when you were here that you intended to be in that part of Virginia about the time that the improvements would be erecting, the President wished in that case that you might be present when the works at his mill were executing. But he does not think it would be necessary for you to quit your own business, which you say is at this time very pressing, for the *sole* purpose of directing the execution of this piece of work. I am etc.[78]

To CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Philadelphia, September 5, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 22nd. of March last.

Being indisposed on the day when Monsieur de Combourg called to deliver your letter I did not see him, and I understood that he set off for Niagara on the next day.

[78] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On September 9 Lear wrote to Evans, asking that Evans's brother be sent to Mount Vernon, "In consequence of the representation made in your letter of the 7 instant, respecting the erecting of your improvements." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

The interesting state of affairs in France has excited the sympathy and engaged the good wishes of our citizens, who will learn with great pleasure that the public deliberations have eventuated in the permanent happiness of your Nation, and no One will more sincerely rejoice in that event than Dear Sir, Your etc.[79]

To DIEGO DE GARDOQUI

Philadelphia, September 5, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive the letter which you were so good as to write to me on the 3 of January last.

I am much obliged by the good wishes, which you express in my behalf, and by your favorable sentiments towards our Country; the interest, which you take in its welfare, makes the communication of its prosperity to you, an agreeable duty.

I learn with sensible satisfaction that your Sovereign has warmly approved your services, and distinguished your merit by particular marks of his favor.

Your opinion of Mr. Jaudeunes' merit, from whom I received your letter, cannot fail to procure him a respectful consideration with your friends here. With great regard, I am etc.[79]

To ELÉONOR FRANÇOIS ÉLIE, COMTE DE MOUSTIER

Philadelphia, September 5, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive the letter, which you were so good as to write to me from Berlin on the 26 of April.

The favorable sentiments which you express of our country and its councils are very agreeable to me. The kind interest,

[79] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

which you take in my personal happiness, excites a grateful sensibility.

You will learn with pleasure that events have realized the most sanguine hopes of our national prosperity. The influence of the general government has extended to every relation of political improvement, and to the promotion of our social happiness. The interesting state of affairs in France excites the sympathy and engages the good wishes of our citizens, who will rejoice to hear that the public deliberations have resulted in the permanent dignity and happiness of your nation. In the joy, which that event will diffuse, no one will participate more sincerely than he who is, with great regard, &c.[80]

To SIR EDWARD NEWENHAM

Philadelphia, September 5, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 31st. of January, and 10 of March last, and to express my obligations to your flattering and friendly assurances of regard.

The interest which you are so good as to take in the welfare of the United States makes the communication of their prosperity to you, a most agreeable duty. You will learn with pleasure that events have justified the most sanguine expectations entertained of the influence of the general government on the political and social happiness of America. Public credit established, Justice promptly and impartially administered, Industry encouraged and protected, Science progressing, Liberty, civil and religious, secured on the liberal basis of reason and virtue, are the rich rewards of the past exertions of our citizens, and the strong incentives to future patriotism.

[80] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The manufacture of maple sugar is in a very promising train, and, as the tree grows in several of the States, there is every reason to conclude that its cultivation will be prosecuted with success. Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth is of Connecticut, and, at present, one of the Representatives of that State in Congress.

The multified cares of my public station do not permit me minutely to indulge the pleasures of private correspondence, and they oblige me to resort to the candor of my friends to excuse a brevity, which might appear abrupt, or a seeming inattention that nothing else could justify.

I shall realise with the most sensible satisfaction your purposed visit to our country, as it will afford me an opportunity personally to assure you of the great regard and esteem, with which I am etc.[81]

To JOHN CANNON

Philadelphia, September 7, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 10 of August, and am very sorry to find that so far as it relates to my property under your care, I have no further satisfaction than the assurance which you have given in all the letters received from you, that *I shall have* a statement of my interest committed to your care. But Sir, I surely had a right to expect something more than the *promise* of a statement before this time; as it is now better than four years since my lands were committed to your care. As the rents were to be paid in wheat it was certainly proper that time should be allowed for converting it into cash before I could receive any thing from you. But as yet I have received *only fifty pounds,* and, considering the length of time that you have had an agency in this business, and the great demands for wheat

[81] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

and flour, particularly last year, when, it is a fact known to every one that it not only commanded a higher price in that part of the country than perhaps had ever been before known there, but ready money also, I am persuaded you will yourself allow that I have just cause to complain.

I hope, Sir, you will, therefore, for your own sake, take such steps in the business as will put it upon a footing satisfactory to me as well as to yourself and as you see the unfavorable impression which the thing, in its present state, makes upon my mind, I trust it will not be long before you endeavor to remove this impression by putting the business in the situation where it ought to be.

As I intend to leave this place next week for Mount Vernon and shall not return until the latter part of October, I shall not probably see you here unless you should be in this place the last of that month, but this will make no difference as the business can be equally well done with Mr. Lear.

In reply to your request that I would mention your name to the Governor of this State as one of the County-Judges, I must inform you that I make it a point never to interfere, on any occasion, in any State appointments. I am etc.[82]

To COMTE D'ESTAING

Philadelphia, September 7, 1791.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 30th of May by the hands of Monsieur de Ternant,[83] and I beg you will be assured, that I have a proper sense of the very polite and obliging manner in which you are pleased to express your

[82] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[83] Jean Baptiste Ternant. He was Minister from France to the United States, 1790 to 1793.

personal regard for me. The manner in which you speak of M de Ternant is highly honorable to him, and, from his talents, discretion, and proper views, united with the extensive information which he possesses, there is but little doubt of his rendering good services to both Countries.

Such is the state of your political affairs, by our last accounts that further information must be received to enable us to form an opinion respecting them. But, in any event, the welfare of the french Nation cannot but be dear to this country; and that its happiness may in the end be established on the most permanent and liberal foundation is the ardent wish of every true American, and of none more sincerely than, &c.[84]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, September 8, 1791.

My dear Sir: I have heard of the death of your promising Son with great concern, and sincerely condole with you and Mrs. Knox on the melancholy occasion.

Parental feelings are too much alive in the moment of these misfortunes to admit the consolations of religion or philosophy; but I am persuaded reason will call one or both of them to your aid as soon as the keenness of your anguish is abated.

He that gave you know has a right to take away, his ways are wise, they are inscrutable, and irresistable. I am etc.[85]

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[84] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On September 7 Lear wrote to Robert Ballard, surveyor of the Port of Baltimore, who had complained of the trouble and expense of his office for which no compensation was made, that "it is impossible for the President to attend to the minutiae of business which may be communicated by Individuals, he wishes always to receive such information as may be proper to come before him, relating to the several Departments through the heads of the Departments to which the business properly belongs. Upon this view of the matter the President is persuaded, Sir, that you will not consider his declining to reply to the subject of your letter at this time, as a singular case; for he observes the same conduct on all occasions of this nature" Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[85] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MARQUIS DE LA LUZERNE[86]

Philadelphia, September 10, 1791.

Sir: In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 15. of May, which reached me but a few days ago, I cannot forbear to express the sensibility with which I receive those warm effusions of personal attachment and respectful remembrance which are contained in it; and at the same time I beg you will be assured, that I reciprocate them with truth and sincerity.

As the happiness of the french Nation cannot be indifferent to the people of this country when we remember the aid which we received therefrom in an hour of distress, you will readily believe that we view with no small anxiety the troubles which, for some time past have agitated that kingdom; and the suspense in which we are held as to what may be the consequence of a late important event[87] which has taken place there, deprives us, in some measure, of the full enjoyment of those feelings, which would naturally result from a reflection on the prosperous situation of the United States. But, however gloomy the face of things may at this time appear in France, yet we will not despair of seeing tranquillity again restored; and we cannot help looking forward with a lively wish to the period, when order shall be established by a government respectfully energetic, and founded on the broad basis of liberality, and the rights of man, which will make millions happy, and place your nation in the rank which she ought to hold.

In a tour which I made last spring through the southern States I confirmed by observation the accounts which we had all along received of the happy effects of the general government upon our agriculture, commerce, and industry. The

[86] Sparks notes that Luzerne died before this letter reached him.
[87] The flight and recapture of King Louis XVI.

same effects pervade the middle and eastern States with the addition of vast progress in the most useful manufactures. The complete restoration of our public credit holds us up in a high light abroad. Thus it appears that the United States are making great progress towards national happiness, and if it is not attained here in as high a degree as human nature will admit of its going, I think we may then conclude that political happiness is unattainable. But at the same time we wish it not to be confined to this Country alone; and, as it expands through the world, our enjoyments will expand with it; and that you may find it in your nation, and realize it yourself, is the sincere prayer of, Sir, &c.[88]

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, September 10, 1791.

The lively interest which I take in your welfare, my dear Sir, keeps my mind in constant anxiety for your personal safety amidst the scenes in which you are perpetually engaged. Your letter of the 6th of June by Monsieur de Ternant gave me that pleasure which I receive from all your letters, which tell me that you are well. But from the account you there gave it did not appear that you would be soon relieved from your arduous labours and from the information we have received of an important event which has taken place since that time it does not appear likely that the clouds which have long obscured your political horizon will be soon dispersed. As yet we are in suspense as to what may have been the consequences of this event; and feeling, as we do in this country, a sincere regard for the french Nation, we are not a little anxious about them. Opinions we are not able to form here, therefore none can be given

[88] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

on the subject. But at any rate, you may be assured, my dear Sir, that we do not view with indifference the happiness of so many millions.

I am glad of M. de Ternant's appointment to this country, for I have a good opinion of his abilities, discretion, and proper views; and, as you observe, as he seems to belong to both Countries, there is not doubt but this joined to the good information which he possesses of the relative and particular interests of both, will enable him to render as much service and be as acceptable to each, as any man can be.

I shall next week set off for Mount Vernon with Mrs. Washington and the Children, where I shall, if possible, enjoy a few weeks of retirement before the meeting of Congress in the last of October. Indeed my presence there (as it will not at this time interfere with my public duties) is necessary for my interest, as George, your old Aid, has for some time past been too much indisposed to pay attention to my concerns, and is now over the mountains for his health. The last account from him was favorable; he had received benefit from his journey. I sincerely wish, my dear Sir, that the affairs of your country were in such a train as would permit you to relax a little from the excessive fatigues to which you have of late been exposed; and I cannot help looking forward with an anxious wish, and a lively hope to the time when peace and tranquillity will reign in your borders, under the sanction of a respectable government founded on the broad basis of liberality and the rights of man. It must be so; the great Ruler of events will not permit the happiness of so many millions to be destroyed; and to his keeping I resign you, my dear Sir, with all that friendship, and affectionate attachment, with which you know me to be, &c.[89]

[89] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON

Philadelphia, September 11, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favored with your letter of the 6th. instant.

The indisposition and consequent (unexpected) absence of my Nephew from Mount Vernon, to whom my concerns there are entrusted, will oblige me to visit that estate before the meeting of Congress.

Thursday I propose to leave this city, and on Sunday afternoon expect to arrive in Baltimore, I shall come provided with 1172 2/3 dollars for your use; but must again take the liberty of calling your attention to the Decree of the High Court of Chancery in Virginia, copy of which I transmitted to you in my last. By this decree you will perceive that the surrender of Clifton's bonds among which is one to Ignatius Digges in the penalty of £1268.10.8 sterling, conditioned for the payment of £634..5/4. sterling and interest together with such counter-bonds as the Plaintiff entered into &ca. &ca. is made a condition of the payments.

I do not know that Clifton's bond to Mr. Digges is of *much* consequence to any of the Parties, but, without the surrender of these bonds, the Commissioners would not at the time, nor could not legally have paid the several sums they did, agreeably to the decree under which they acted, consequently, as I am now acting in the double capacity of Commissr. and purchaser of the land, it behooves me to call in Clifton's bond to Mr. Digges, as was the case with the others, or to require an indemnification against it.

For the general purpose of security against any claim from the Representatives of Mr. Carroll and Mr. Digges, it was that

I meant to ask your indemnification, if there should be any difficulty in obtaining a releasement of the mortgage, or surrender of the papers, as required by the decree.

If you could make it convenient to be in Baltimore on Sunday afternoon, I am persuaded every thing could then, or early on Monday morning, be settled without difficulty, and to our mutual satisfaction, being well convinced that both of us mean to do what is right. I have mentioned *Sunday* afternoon because I shall leave Town *early* next morning. I do not intend to give Mr. Lee[90] any trouble in this business.

With very great regard etc.[91]

To ANTHONY WAYNE

Philadelphia, September 12, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of yesterday was presented to me this day, but at a time when I was in conversation with a Gentleman on business.

I embrace the first moment of leisure to acknowledge the receipt of it, and to add assurances of my belief that the account given by Mr. Sheuber[92] of his leaving the british service, and bringing letters to me whilst my quarters were at Rocky Hill is true.

I have *some* recollection of the circumstance, but not enough to give a formal certificate to the fact.

The variety of occurrences, which, in those days, almost overwhelmed me. The time which has elapsed since, and an unwillingness to certify things that I am not positively sure of are my reasons for not complying with Mr. Sheuber's request

[90] Charles(?) Lee.
[91] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*
[92] Justus Harman Sheuber, of Savannah, Ga.

in a formal way; but if the sentiments, herein expressed, can be of service to him, I have no objection to his making use of them as coming from Dear Sir, Your etc.[93]

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Philadelphia, September 12, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 27th of May with its enclosures came duly to hand.

During my absence on my late Southern tour the proposals of Messrs. Schweizer and Jeannerett, made their appearance here, as well through Mr. Otto,[94] Chargé des Affaires of France, to the Secretary of State, as through Mr. Short, to the Secretary of the Treasury.

In pursuance to certain arrangements, made previous to my departure, an answer was given: which answer was in substance that it did not appear to be for the interest of the United States to accept those proposals.

The reasons which have been assigned to me as having dictated this answer are as follow.

First, That the rate of interest to be stipulated in the new contract, as well upon the part of the debt which had not fallen due, as upon that which had fallen due was 5 pr cent. It was a question whether a contract stipulating such a rate of interest with regard to the first mentioned part of the debt was fairly within the meaning of that clause of the law which requires that the payment of it should be made upon "terms *advantageous* to the United States," and while there was no reason to apprehend that it would be necessary to allow a higher interest than 5 pr cent. on any loans, which might be made to discharge

[93] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[94] Louis Guillaume Otto.

the *arrears* of principal and interest, it did not appear expedient to forego the chance of a *lower rate*.

2nd. The commission or premium of 5 pr ct. demanded in the proposal is one pr ct. more than is given up on the loans going on in Holland. This would amount to a loss of one pr ct. on the part, which the United States were bound immediately to pay; and in respect to that, which had not become due, would be an unnecessary sacrifice of 5 pr cent.

3rd. The immediate proposers are understood to be a House not of primary consequence themselves, and though they alledged, they did not prove, that they were supported by others who could be deemed Capitalists equal to the undertaking. From the difference of exchange between Holland and Paris they could afford sacrifices in the sale of the bonds of the United States; and if there was not great force of capital among those engaged in the undertaking, such sacrifices were to be expected. A great quantity of bonds, thrown suddenly into the market, by persons who were pressed to raise money from them, could not but have effects the most injurious to the credit of the U. S.

4th. Paris being the stipulated place of payment, if, from the state of exchange payments could be made *there* in *gold* and *silver* with a saving to the United States, there could be no good objection to profiting by the circumstance; but this advantage, and more, even to the full extent of the depreciation of the Assignats, would be transferred by the proposed bargain to the undertakers.

5th. The single advantage which the proposals held out, of a prolonged period of reimbursement, would be obtained of course by loans in the ordinary way: and as to the effect of the measure upon loans for the redemption of the domestic debt, this would be good or bad according as the undertakers might

or not have occasion to bring the bonds of the United States to market.

The foregoing reasons appeared to me to have so much weight that I saw no ground for directing any alterations in what was done.

It appears in their letter to you that the gentlemen in question are willing to wave the claim of premium or commission on the part of the debt not yet due; but this obviates only one of the objections which have been stated.

You observe also that they had given you proofs that persons of the first fortune were connected with them in the business. They were deficient in not having given the like proof to Mr. Short, whose enquiries had been directed to this object.

The observations you make concerning the views, which ought to govern the United States in their reimbursements to France are founded in propriety. You may conclude that no unequitable advantage will be taken; and it is hoped that the measures now in execution will be more conducive to the real interests of that country than would have been an acceptance of the proposals of Messrs. S. & J., who, it is presumable, founded their speculation chiefly upon the idea of availing themselves of the full benefit resulting from the depreciation of the Assignats.

Thanking you for the communication you have made me on the subject, I assure you that I do justice to the motives which dictated it.

Your other letter of the 27. of May by Mr. Ternant and that of the 8th. of June from London, have both been received. I am much pleased that you drew the balance *only* from Welch and Son. The deficiency was paid to Wm. Constable & Co. as soon as this circumstance was made known to Dear Sir your etc.[95]

[95] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

September 14, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 7th. instant,[96] with its enclosure, did not reach me 'till yesterday. The intelligence it communicates is of a nature both serious and important. Indeed, the step it announces, as about to be taken by the British, would be one so extraordinary in every view, as to justify a question, whether the indications, which are alleged to have been given, have not rather proceeded from some indiscreet levity on the part of the officers alluded to, than from any real design of doing what appears to have been threatened. A little time however will explain the true state of the matter.

Your Excellency need not I am persuaded be assured that, in connection with the more general considerations which are involved in the circumstance, I feel a due concern for any injury, inconvenience or dissatisfaction which may have arisen or may arise, in respect to the State of New-York, or any part of its Inhabitants, in consequence of the detention of the posts, or the interferences which may have grown out of it. Nor has the matter failed to receive from me the degree of attention to which it is entitled. Yet in a point of such vast magnitude as that of the preservation of the peace of the Union, particularly in this still *very early* stage of our affairs, and at a period so little remote from a most exhausting and affecting, though successful war, the public welfare and safety evidently enjoin a conduct of circumspection, moderation and forbearance. And it is relied upon, that the known good sense of the Community ensures its approbation of such a conduct.

There are, however, bounds to the spirit of forbearance, which ought not to be exceeded. Events may occur which may

[96] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

demand a departure from it. But if extremities are at any time to ensue, it is of the utmost consequence, that they should be the result of a deliberate plan, not of an accidental collision; and that they should appear both at home and abroad to have flowed either from a necessity which left no alternative, or from a combination of advantageous circumstances which left no doubt of the expediency of hazarding them. Under the impression of this opinion and supposing that the event which is apprehended should be realized, it is my desire, that no hostile measure be in the first instance attempted.

With a view nevertheless to such ultimate proceedings as the nature of the case may require, and that upon the ground of well authenticated facts, I have concluded to send a gentleman to the spot,[97] who will be charged to ascertain and report to me whatever may take place; together with the general situation of the part of the Country immediately affected by the vicinity of the British Posts. An additional motive to this measure is the desire of obtaining information in reference to the establishment of the Custom-House in the State of Vermont; which is also connected with the position of those Posts. I have the honor &c.[98]

To JAMES SEAGROVE

Philadelphia, September 14, 1791.

Sir: Three letters of yours, two bearing the 16 and the other the 25 of August are just come to hand. Your former letters in July have also been received.

[97] A copy by Lear of the undated and unsigned instructions to this agent (whose name is not given), which were drafted by Knox and approved by Washington, are filed in the *Washington Papers* under date of Sept. 15, 1791. In them it is stated that the British contemplated establishing a new military post "further advanced within the territory of the United States, than the posts which have been occupied by british garrisons since the conclusion of the late war." The agent was also to "endeavour to ascertain the times, causes and effects of the former insults stated by his Excellency Governor Clinton."

[98] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The Secretary of War will write to you on the subject of Indian affairs, and the Secretary of State will do the same on the business which respects the Negroes, when he returns from the visit he is now making to his family in Virginia.

It falls to my province to thank you for your communications of a private nature, which are very interesting and satisfactorily detailed. At all times it will afford me pleasure to receive information with respect to the situation of matters in that quarter, not only as they regard ourselves, but neighbours also, Spaniards and Indians. I am etc.[99]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Head of Elk, September 16, 1791.

Dr. Sir: Whilst I was in Wilmington waiting breakfast today, I made the best enquiry time and circumstances would permit, for some fit character to fill the office lately held by Doctr. Latimer.[1] Several persons were mentioned, but the weight of information was spoken of by Mr. Vining [2] as a man of respectable character, of decision and temper. He now is, or lately has been high Sheriff of the County of Kent; and no man, it is said, could have discharged the duties of that Office better. Mr. Bedford,[3] though he had another person in view, (Majr. Jacquet),[4] accords in this opinion of Barratt.[5] Doctor Latimer, whom I afterwards called upon, at New port, for the purpose of enquiry, also speaks well of Barratt. He did indeed, before I mentioned the name of Barratt to him, say that he

[99] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
In the afternoon of Thursday, September 15, Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon, which he reached September 20.

[1] Henry Latimer. He had resigned his position as Supervisor of Delaware.

[2] John Vining.

[3] Gunning Bedford.

[4] Peter Jacquett.

[5] Andrew Barratt.

thought Majr. Patten [6] of Dover the best person that readily occurred to him for this office, but yielded a ready assent to the qualifications of Barratt. None knows whether he would, or would not accept the appointment. Among other things, urged in his favor by Mr. Vining, are his living near the centre of the State, amidst the Stills, and where the most discontent is said to be. To Mr. Chew of Philada. Mr. Vining particularly appeals for the character of Mr. Barratt.

If his testimony is in favor of this character, I think it will be an eligible appointment. A blank Commission, signed, has been left with Mr. Lear for the Supervisor of the Delaware District. With much esteem and regard I am etc.

To SAMUEL POWEL

Philadelphia, September 20, 1791.

Sir: In order to prevent any misapprehension of the purport of the conversation which I had the honor to hold with you today, I beg leave to communicate, in this way, the observations of the President, which I before conveyed verbally. Upon reading in the papers the debates of the Legislature of Pennsylvania upon the bill for granting a sum of money to defray the expences of building a House for the President of the United States &ca. The President observed to me that he was sorry to find some of the Gentlemen had taken up an idea that he was not accommodated to his satisfaction in the house, which he now occupies; and seemed to urge *on this ground* the necessity of having a house erected for the President. But he wished the Gentlemen to be informed that this was not the case, for he felt himself perfectly satisfied with the house in which he resides. The President farther observed that if the house in question was

[6] John Patton(?).

even now finished he should not go into it; for he had, at a very considerable expence, accommodated his furniture to his present residence, and it was not probable that it could be made to suit another house so well; and as the time for which he was elected to his present station would expire within two years, his getting new furniture answerable to a house which might be built was out of the question, and again repeated that he was perfectly satisfied with his present accommodations, and should not remove into any other house (if he was permitted to occupy this) during the term of his Presidency.

These sentiments the President wished might be known by some indirect communication to the Legislature. But at the same time wished them to be conveyed as sentiments relating to himself personally; for he was apprehensive from the idea held up in the House of Representatives, that measures might be taken to build a house for the President at this moment to accommodate *him,* when otherwise it might be thought best to delay or defer it. The President likewise wished it to be impressed that he could not have the most distant intention of interfering in any thing which the Legislature of Pennsylvania thought proper to do on the subject, by conveying these sentiments; but, finding the matter had been taken up on the ground of his not being well accommodated, he thought it necessary to give this explanation to do away that opinion.

In a conversation with Mr. Gallatin[7] I communicated these things to him, he informed me that the bill had passed the House of Representatives, and was then before the Senate, and wished to know if he might be at liberty to relate the substance of our conversation. I told him he might, and find that he has done it accordingly. I will take this opportunity to mention that

[7]Albert Gallatin.

some time before my conversation with Mr. Gallatin, I had, by the President's order, conveyed the same sentiments to Miers Fisher Esq. in answer to some enquiries which he made respecting the President's accommodations, and building a house &ca.

The trouble of this letter needs some apology to you Sir, which I hope will be found in my wish to give a clear explanation of the subject of it. I have the honor etc.[8]

To MIERS FISHER

Philadelphia, September 20, 1791.

Sir: As one year has nearly elapsed since the President of the United States first occupied Mr. Morris's house in High Street, I shall be much obliged to you to inform me of the day when the rent commenced, the annual amount of the rent, and to whom it must be paid, in order that a settlement for the first year may take place when that year expires.

I have taken the liberty, Sir, of requesting this information from you, because all my communications on the subject have hitherto been with you. I have the honor etc.

P. S. You informed me in the spring that the rent would be five hundred pounds currency, and I only mention it now to be clearly ascertained with the other points.[9]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 22d. inst: enclosing a copy of one from the French Minister; and have to inform you,

[8] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear, S. P. U. S." in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[9] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

that your proceedings with respect to the request of the Minister of France, meet my entire approbation.[10] I am etc.[11]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1791.

Sir: I have recd. your letter of the 22d. Inst. enclosing a copy of one from the French Minister, and I do empower you to comply fully with the request of the Minister of France for certain supplies mentioned in his letter.[12] I am etc.[11]

*To JEAN BAPTISTE TERNANT

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1791.

Sir: I have not delayed a momt. since the receipt of your communications of the 22d. instant, in dispatching orders to the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish the money, and to the Secretary of War to deliver the Arms and Ammunition, which you have applied to me for.

Sincerely regretting, as I do, the cause which has given rise to this application; I am happy in the opportunity of testifying how well disposed the United States are to render every aid in their power to our good friends and Allies the French to

[10] Ternant had written Hamilton (September 21) of the alarming state of affairs in Hispaniola [the Slave Rebellion of 1791 in San Domingo] asking for a loan, not exceeding $40,000, with which to send urgently needed provisions to that island. Hamilton reported to the President that United States funds were available to that amount and that he had placed that sum at the command of the French Minister. These letters are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[11] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[12] The list of supplies sent by Knox which, he stated, could "be spared from the Arsenal at West-Point without any detriment to the public service" noted 1,000 muskets and bayonets, 110 musket cartridges, 10 barrels of musket powder and ball, cartridge paper and thread to make up the cartridges, 5,000 flints, 500 gun screws, 1,000 brushes and priming wires, 1,000 cartridge boxes and belts. "It appears a singular opportunity for the United States to manifest their zeal to repay in some degree the assistance afforded us during the perilous struggles of the late war."

quell "the alarming insurrection of the Negros in Hispaniola" and of the ready disposition to effect it, of the Executive authority thereof.[13]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, September 26, 1791.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you I have received your two letters of the 21st. instant; one dated in the morning, and the other in the evening of that day.

What appeared to *you* to be the object of the formal enquiries of Mr. Powell and the Mayor of the City, in their late interrogatories? Did they mean to convict Mr. Gallatine of mis-representation, or me of an improper interference in the building of a House for the President of the United States? If the first, Mr. Gallatine may speak for himself; If the latter, I have no scruple in declaring to those Gentlemen or any others, that no one has a right to publish sentiments *as mine* that were never uttered, or conceived, *by me;* especially too after the reverse had been explicitly declared to Mr. Fisher at his own request wch. was made, as he *professed,* to answer a particular purpose. Previous to the above communication to Mr. Fisher, I do not recollect that I ever expressed a sentiment respecting the public building. To a Pennsylvanian, or one wishing to promote the measure, I am certain I never did: but *afterwards,* when I found my want of accomodation and consequent dissatisfaction was adduced as argument to support the measure, I was inclined that the following truth should be known, first, that I never had, since I got rid of the Workmen, expressed any dissatisfaction with my accomodations. Secondly, That as I have already made *two* expensive removals, and had not long

[13] From the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.,* vol. 6. A duplicate, now in the Huntington Library, varies in minor verbal details.

to remain in office, I would not make a third, unless I was compelled to do it. And, thirdly, under these circumstances, and a thorough conviction that the proposed building might be delayed, and still erected in time for my Successor. It was candid and fair to make these sentiments known, especially as they were accompanied with a pointed declaration that it was *only* as the building regarded *myself, personally* that they were communicated; having no desire to intermeddle in the politic's of the State.

I am glad you stated the matter in writing to Mr. Powell. Sentiments, and communications expressed in that manner, cannot be misconceiv'd or mis-represented, from the want of recollection. I hope there is no intention of adding near 50 pr. Ct. to the Rent of the House I occupy; for I *well* remember my desiring you to inform the Committee that I *must* and *would* know upon what terms I was to Inhabit the House and that you told me they had fixed the Rent at £500 pr Ann.

If you have not already made a purchase of Blankets, I wish you to suspend doing it until you hear from me again. I am about to send this day to Alexandria, where it is said large importations of this article have been made, to learn the qualities, and price of the Dutch Blanketing. Sitgreaves Memo. is not explicit enough to enable me to judge of the size, or quality of his. The only sort of them which are applicable to my use, are inserted thus "Striped Duffells 115/ to 180/ per piece of 15 blankets"; this brings the lowest of these to 9/. and the highest to 12/. each which is high, supposing them of the largest size, and of the first quality. If you will mention in your next the length and breadth of the different sizes, and whether they are of the best quality, I shall be better able to decide.

I do not recollect whether I mentioned to you in my last that the Major got home a day or two before us. He is much better

than he was; but not yet free from the pain in his breast and Cough.

Mrs. Washington and all the family (which at present is pretty numerous) join me in best wishes for yourself, Mrs. Lear, Majr. Jackson and the Child. I am etc. [H.L.]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 24th. ulto., (enclosing a letter from Govr. St. Clair, and sundry papers relating to the subject of the settlements which have been made under purchases from Judge Symmes)[14] I have duly received. The Secretary of State, as well as I recollect, has already written both the Govr. St. Clair and Judge Symmes on this subject; but whether he has or has not, it can make no material difference to let the matter rest until my return to Philada. when I shall pay the necessary attention to it.[15] I am etc.[16]

To JOHN DANDRIDGE

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 6 ultimo found me at this place, but not until it had travelled to Philadelphia and back again.

As I never entertained a suspicion of your having any intention to impose upon me by a misrepresentation of the assets of your Father's estate. So you and your good Mother may rest assured that I have no disposition to contribute to her

[14] John Cleves Symmes.

[15] The "Miami Purchase" dispute was not finally settled until 1792, when an act of Congress was approved Apr. 12, 1792, establishing the boundaries of Symmes' purchase. "Sundry papers relating to the purchase by Judge Symmes of the Lands on the Great Miami" were laid before Congress, with a brief message from the President, Nov. 11, 1791. This message is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[16] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

distresses by withdrawing from her the use of those Negroes which were purchased on my account (under the friendly judgment which had been obtained at your desire in my behalf) and left in her possession. When I want the negroes she shall have such timely notice of it as will prevent inconvenience. All I require at present is that the property in them may stand upon such clear and unequivocal ground as to admit of no dispute hereafter.

Your Aunt and all the family (except my nephew Major Washington) are well, and join me in every good wish for yourself and Mother, and the rest of the family.

With great esteem etc.[17]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1791.

Sir: Nothing at present occurs to me of which I have to inform you, except that since the rect. of your letter of the 22d. ulto. respecting the situation of affairs in the French Island of Hispaniola, your other letter of the 22d. and that of the 24th. of the same month, one giving an Accot. of the Expedition under Gl. Wilkinson;[18] the other enclosing a Statemt. of the Troops now on our frontiers, having been duly received.[19] I hope however, that all papers, in your Departt., respecting the western Expedition and other matters, which will come before Congress, will be in readiness by the time of their meeting. I am etc.[20]

[17] The original letter, now in the possession of Leonard Opdyke, of Boston, Mass., varies from this "Letter Book" copy in minor verbal details.

[18] Wilkinson's volunteer expedition was against L'Anguille, an Ouiattanan (Wea) town near the junction of the Wabash and Eel Rivers, which he destroyed. This expedition is usually referred to as having been against the Wabash Indians.

[19] These letters from Knox (September 22 and 24), and the statement of troops, are in the *Washington Papers*.

[20] The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

To JEAN BAPTISTE TERNANT

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1791.

Sir: The details with which you have been pleased to favor me (under date of 24. ult.) of the unfortunate insurrection of the negroes in Hispaniola, came duly to hand; and I pray you to accept my best thanks for the trouble you have taken to give them. What the final issue of this affair may be is difficult at this distance, and with the imperfect information we have to foretell; but certain it is the commencement has been both daring and alarming. Let us, however, hope for the best. I would fain hope that *this*, and your *other* business may be so arranged as to give me the pleasure of welcoming you to this seat of retirement before I leave it, which by appointment is to happen on the 16 instant.

I shall add no more than assurances of the sincere esteem etc.[21]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1791.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you, which I think was written on this day week, I have received your letters of the 25th. and 27th. Ulto.

I am not yet enabled to speak decisively with respect to the Blankets. Many have arrived, but are not yet opened, in Alexandria. Mr. Wilson, who has imported of them largely, at from 56/. to 75/. Sterg. pr. piece of 15 blankets; has offered them to me at 70 pr Ct. but as he cannot before they are opened give the size, or quality, it is impossible to say whether they will come

[21] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

cheap or dear. I shall ascertain this matter before Friday next and will then write to you on the subject again.

Letters and Papers from you by the Posts on Wednesdays and Fridays will come to me as soon as those which may be forwarded on Mondays; as I do not send to the Office on Wednesday's; which is the day the Mail arrives there that leaves Philadelphia on Monday. Those which leave that place on Wednesday comes in on Friday, and the Friday's mail arrives on Monday and these are the days I shall send up for letters &ca.

I send two French letters to be translated and forwarded to me.

It is a little singular, when considered on the score of candor, that Mr. P——[22] should suffer Mr. S——[23] to assert what he did in the S——[24] without contradicting him; but the views, and conduct of the City Influence stands in need of no development in my mind. Nor have I a much higher opinion of the candor of Mr. F——.[25] He is very welcome however to the copy of the letter you wrote to Mr. P. and with which you furnished him, as I wish the sentiments therein expressed to be *generally* known; since the matter has been introduced into the Legislature of the State, and so unfairly stated, as it appears to have been done, by *both* parties. The details you have given me of this matter was very proper, and I am glad you furnished me with them. It is quite right that I should be made acquainted with these things.

I am very well satisfied with the determinations of the Comee. respecting the Rent, and the time of its commencing; and am glad of your expression to that effect.

How does the engraving of the Federal City advance?[26] Send me some of the first that are struck off and let the others be

[22] Samuel Powel.
[23] John Smilie.
[24] Senate of Pennsylvania.
[25] Miers Fisher.
[26] Plan of the city.

disposed of as was agreed on. If you should learn with certainty that the Minister of France[27] is coming to this place advise me of it and when he sets out.

All the family here are well except the Major[28] who seems to be in a poor way and join me in best wishes for you and yours, and for Major Jackson, I am etc. [H.L.]

To HUGH O'CONNOR

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1791.

Sir: By desire of the President of the United States I have to inform you that your letter to him of the 22 ult. has been received. The President directs me also to let you know that with respect to the contract, which you say was made with Mr. Deakins for land, it is his opinion that there must have been some considerable misunderstanding in the matter, as no land situated in the part of the country you mention, can be bought for any thing like the price of half a dollar per acre, which is the price the President understands you were to have the lands for. The President not having been concerned in buying or selling land for some considerable length of time, cannot give you any information, with certainty, where or at what price you can suit yourself in land, nor is it in his power (from the multiplicity of business to which he is obliged to attend) to make any enquiries of that kind in your behalf; but being willing to afford you every assistance he can he directs me to transmit to you the Virginia gazette and Alexandria advertiser, wherein you will find advertised for sale by Messrs. Hooe and Little of Alexandria, sundry parcels of land, among the rest one called the Catoctan tract, on the Potomac river, which he thinks would

[27] Jean Baptiste Ternant.
[28] George Augustine Washington.

answer your purpose as it will be sold in a body, or divided into small tracts as may suit the Purchaser, and from what knowledge he has of that part of the country, he believes the land to be pretty good. The price of the land and title which can be made to it the President must leave to your further enquiries; he has reason however to believe that the price will be from two to three pounds per acre. I am etc.[29]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, October 7, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 30th. Ulto. came duly to hand; with the enclosures.

I have had samples of the Alexandria Blankets sent me; the quality of them is not good; inferior to those I had from Watson, and far, very far indeed, inferior to those which I used to import myself. The prices, length and breadth of three kinds, are enclosed.

Messrs. Sitgreaves, give no length to their Blankets, and if Colo. Biddle has been accurate in his account, and I understd. him, the Blankets he has had offered to him, however good in other respects, are intolerably narrow. Under this view of matters I am perplexed. I by no means like the prices, or quality, of the Blankets in Alexandria; and scarcely know what Judgment to form of those in Philadelphia; but if whilst hesitating between the two I should miss both, it would be bad indeed, as my people would in that case be in great distress the ensuing Winter. Upon the whole, I have resolved to refer the matter once more to you, with the Alexandria prices and sizes (the quality you can only form an opinion of from the discription I

[29] This letter is signed "B. Dandridge" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

have already given) of the Blankets in that place; and to request that you and Colo. Biddle will endeavor to procure me the quantity wanting, viz, 200; if upon comparison you shall conceive I may be benifited thereby. One hundred of the largest size, and best quality is required; the other hundred may be of the middle size, but good in quality. But in truth, if I am to form an opinion of the sizes by the Accts. sent, the largest of them scarcely comes up to my ideas of a middle sized Blanket. At all events let me know by the Wednesday's Post after you receive this (and which will reach me only the day before I leave home) what I have to trust to, as I shd. regret a disappointment exceedingly.

I recollect asking you, if among my Pamphlets you had seen the Journal of my tour to the French on Labeauf in the year 1753? I understood you No; but Mrs. Washington thinks you said yes. I have searched in vain for it here. Pray decide this point between us.

As I shall have but little time between my return to Philadelphia and the meeting of Congress to arrange matters for the Communications I shall have to make at the opening of the Sessions, I desire *you* will (for my time is so much occupied here by company, and the necessary attention to my domestic concerns, as not to allow me time to do it) examine my Speeches at the opening of the three last Sessions of Congress, and compare the several matters recommended in them with the Laws that have passed; noting the things recommended, and not acted upon *at all,* as also the measures recommended and taken up by Congress but *not finished;* such as the Militia Law &ca., that I may, by seeing the State of the business, decide on the propriety (as I am about to meet a new House of Representatives) of bringing the same matters before Congress again. It will do, if

this enquiry is compleated against my arrival, and I pray you to be correct in it. The Journals, or Mr. Beckley,[30] can inform you of those cases which have been taken up, but never finished; and I wish you to ask at the Secretary of States Office what has been the result of the enquiries which have issued from thence in consequence of the resolve of Congress to ascertain the quantity, and State of the Lands ceded by No. Carolina.

I ought, when speaking of the Blankets, to have desired, if you make the purchase in Philadelphia, to forward them by the first vessel which is bound to Alexandria as my Negros are all teazing me for them, and the season will soon make them necessary.

What progress does Mr. West[31] make? and has he learnt to write with more facility and ease than when I left him?

Mrs. Washington requests you to get her Six pieces of Ginghams according to the inclosed Memm. and to send them along with the Blankets. She and all here join in best wishes for you &ca., and I am etc. [H.L.]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 10, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 1st. inst: I have duly recd., likewise one of the 4th., covering a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury together with some communication from Lt. Colo. Beckwith.

I herewith transmit you an Address and Memorial of the Officers, Civil and Military, of the District of Miro,[32] which was

[30] John Beckley. He was clerk of the United States House of Representatives.
[31] Hugh West.
[32] Tennessee.
On October 29 Lear wrote to Knox that the President approved "the manner in which the Secy proposes to answer the memorial of the Inhabitants of Miro district in the S Wtn. Territory." Lear's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

sent to me by Govr. Blount. I wish you to take the same into your consideration, and make a report thereon at my return to Phila. I am etc.[33]

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mount Vernon, October 10, 1791.

Sir: By the Post of Friday, I received your communications of the 1st. instant; and, from the character of Mr. Campbell I am glad to hear he is disposed to act as attorney for the district of Virginia; and that you had forwarded the commission to him for that purpose. Also, that a pardon had been sent to Samuel Dodge, as it appears that his errors were unintentional.

It is my wish and desire that you would examine the Laws of the General Government which have relation to Indian affairs, that is, for the purpose of securing their lands to them; Restraining States or Individuals from purchasing their lands, and forbidding unauthorized intercourse in their dealing with them. And moreover, that you would suggest such auxiliary Laws as will supply the defects of those which are in being, thereby enabling the Executive to enforce obedience.

If Congress expect to live in peace with the neighbouring Indians and to avoid the expenses and horrors of continual hostilities, such a measure will be found indispensably necessary; for unless adequate penalties are provided, that will check the spirit of speculation in lands and will enable the Executive to carry them into effect, this Country will be constantly embroiled with, and appear faithless in the eyes not only of the Indians but of the neighboring powers also. For, notwithstanding the existing laws, solemn Treaties, and Proclamations which have been issued to enforce a compliance with both, and some

[33] The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

attempts of the Government s. west of the Ohio to restrain their proceedings, The agents for the Tennessee Company are at this moment by *public advertisements* under the signature of a Zachariah Cox encouraging by offers of land and other inducements, a settlement at the Mussle-Shoals, and is likely to obtain Emigrants for that purpose altho' there is good evidence, that the measure is disapproved by the Creeks and Cherokees; and it is presumed is so likewise by the Chicasaws and Choctaws, unless they have been imposed upon by assurances that trade is the only object in view by the Establishment. I am, &c.[34]

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, October 14, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 9th. was forwarded to me yesterday morning by the Post-Master in Alexandria (having sent no person to that place the evening before).

I am glad of the intimation given of the intentions of the Minister of France; and pleased, tho' distressed at the same time, at the information that, the 24th. instt. is the day fixed on for the meeting of Congress. I had no more idea of this than I had of its being dooms-day. Supposing the 31st. to be the day, I meant to have spent Monday, and possibly Tuesday, at George-Town; and then to have proceeded leizurely on; but as the case is I shall endeavor to reach Bladensburgh *at least,* the first night (that is Monday) and delay no time on the Road afterwards that can be avoided; as I shall have scarce any time to prepare my communications for the opening of the Session on the 24th. if there should be punctuality in the Members. This unexpected event makes it more essentially necessary to look, without delay, and with accuracy, into the Speeches and Laws (at

[34] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

the past Sessions) agreeably to my former directions; that, among other matters, they may be considered of when I arrive. If any thing else should have occurred to you, fit for recommendation, or communication in the Speech, note it, that, in case it shd. not be among my memorandums, it may be ready for consideration.

There is a mistery attending the Engraving of the Federal City which I do not comprehend. It appears somewhat singular, that the incorrectness of the Plan should not have been discovered till now, when Major L'Enfant was detained many days in Philadelphia to prepare and fit it for the purpose.

If the Memorial of Messrs. Triol Roux and Co.[35] has not already been sent it may await my arrival in Philadelphia as I shall have no leizure to give it a consideration until after my Communications have been prepared for Congress. Being much hurried I have only time to wish you and Mrs. Lear well, and to assure you of the sincere esteem etc. [H.L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 14, 1791.

My dear Sir: When I addressed a private letter to you a few days ago I had no more idea that Monday the 24th. instt. was the day appointed for the meeting of Congress, than I had of its being dooms-day, until it was mentioned to me in a letter which I have just received from Mr. Lear (who was under the like mistake). It had taken such deep root in my mind that the *last* Monday in the month was the time that I never consulted the

[35] Concerning a debt claimed to be due them from the United States.

Law or made any enquiry about it; and meant to move leisurely on in the course of next week for Philadelphia and for that purpose had directed Page to send off his Stage Coach so as to be at George-Town on tuesday the 18th. This discovery, however, will oblige me, as soon as I am provided with the means, to accelerate my Journey; and it induces me at the same time to urge you more earnestly to be prepared against my arrival with what my last requested. How far, in addition to the several matters mentioned in that letter, would there be propriety do you conceive in suggesting the policy of encouraging the growth of Cotton, and Hemp in such parts of the United States as are adapted to the culture of these articles? The advantages which would result to this Country from the produce of articles, which ought to be manufactured at home is apparent but how far bounties on them come within the Powers of the Genl. Government or it might comport with the temper of the times to expend money for such purposes is necessary to be considered and without a bounty is given I know of no means by which the growth of them can be *effectually* encouraged. The establishment of Arsenals in convenient and proper places is, in my opinion, a measure of high national importance meriting the serious attention of Congress; and is one of those measures which ought to be brought to their view.

Yesterday I received the resignation of John Spotswood Moore Surveyor of West Point in this State. I mention it now, that if opportunities should present, you may make the necessary enquiries into the fitness of Alexr. Moore, his Brother, whom he recommends as a Successor. With affectionate regard, etc.[36]

[36] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Alwin J. Scheuer, of New York City.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 14, 1791.

My dear Sir: I have been under a strange mistake with respect to the time appointed for the meeting of Congress, and a distressing one; inasmuch as I shall have but little time after my arrival in Philadelphia to receive, and digest the thoughts which may have occurred to the heads of Departments, with those of my own, into proper form for communication, or recommendation.

So strongly was it fixed in my mind that the *last* instead of the *fourth* Monday in this month was the day appointed for the meeting, that, as my return depended on Pages Stage Coach it was not ordered to be at George Town until the 18th. instt.; nor should I (unless by accident) have discovered my mistake, had not Mr. Lear in a letter I received from him yesterday (being under the like himself) informed me of it.

This being the case (tho' it is not probable it has happened to you) I must request you to be prepared, according to the desires made known to you before I left the City, against my return to it, which will be without a moments delay that I can avoid after the means are in my power to proceed.

Being much hurried I have hardly time to look back on what I have written but if you understand my meaning it is enough. Sincerely and Affectionately etc.

To BATTAILE MUSE

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1791.

Sir: As you have intimated at different times your inclination to give up the collection of my rents, and as Mr. Robert Lewis,

a nephew of mine, is now settled in Frederick, and is willing to undertake it, I request that you will put the leases and other papers belonging to that business into his hands, and I would thank you for giving him such a statement of matters respecting the circumstances under which the several tenements are, the rents due thereon, and the train in which things are, to obtain them, as your knowledge of facts will enable you to do. This will be an essential and pleasing service to me, and I have no doubt of your dispositions to comply with the request.

As my leases, in the early stages of them, were given upon very low rents, but with covenants to erect certain buildings, and to make other improvements, which were specified, and which I knew would add vastly to the value of the lots when they should revert to me again, I wish as far as you are enabled to do it that you would, in case of their noncompliance, give the reasons to Mr. Lewis of their failure, and the steps you had taken, or were about to take, to enforce the measure or to annul or set aside the lease. I am etc.[37]

To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1791.

Dear Sir: Enclosed is a letter for Mr. Muse,[38] requesting him to put my papers into your hands, and to give you such information with respect to the business, as is necessary to bring you acquainted with the present state of it. After you have read the letter, and noticed the contents, seal and deliver it to him.

Receive from Mr. Muse all the blank leases, with which I have furnished him, as well as those which have been filled up and executed. It will be indispensably necessary for you to get the

[37] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[38] Battaile Muse.

precise state of the rents, which are due on each tenement, the ability of the tenants, and the prospect of receiving the rents. Make yourself Master also of the disputes, if any there be, to which the Tenements are subject.

From long experience I have laid it down as an unerring maxim that to exact rents with punctuality is not only the *right* of the Landlord, but that it is also for the benefit of the Tenant, that it should be so; unless by uncontroulable events, and providential strokes the latter is rendered unable to pay them; in such cases he should not only meet with indulgence, but, in some instances with a remittal of the rent. But, in the ordinary course of these transactions, the rents ought to be collected with the most rigid exactness, especially from *my* Tenants who do not, for most of the farms, pay a fourth of what the tenements would let for if they were now in my possession. If it is found difficult for a Tenant to pay *one* rent, it is more difficult for him to pay *two;* when *three* are due he despairs, or cares little about them; and if it runs to a greater number, it is highly [probable] that, to avoid paying any, he will leave you the bag to hold. For these reasons, except under the circumstances before mentioned, it is my desire that you will give all the Tenants *timely* notice that you will give no indulgences beyond those allowed by the covenants in the leases. If they find *you strict,* they will be punctual; if otherwise, *your* trouble will be quadrupled, and I can have no dependence upon my rents which are now my principal support, since, by the diligence of Mr. Muse the Tenants are brought into a proper way of thinking and acting respecting them; and my crops are almost continually failing me.

As there have been many transfers, and some without any privity of mine, altho' it is contrary to a covenant in the Leases, it is a matter which will claim your particular attention; and, as I have already observed, as the leases of old date are given for

less than one fourth of their *present value*, it is my particular request, that you will endeavor to investigate, with great accuracy, and inform me of the result, what lives still remain in each lease throwing the proof, (unless you are advised by able Counsel that it cannot be done) where the Lessees are not to be produced, upon the Tenant to shew that they are actually in existence.

As all the rents become due on or before the first day of January in every year, and distrainable at the expiration of a certain number of days thereafter I shall expect that in some short and reasonable time after the days of grace expire the amount of your collection will be paid into the hands of Major Geo: A. Washington, my present Attorney, or whosoever hereafter may have the superintendence of my business in this State during my absence in the service of the public.

Although I flatter myself that there is no occasion for the admonition, yet I will accompany this appointment with suggesting to you, that business is rarely well executed that is not diligently pursued, and that the same consequences of neglect will happen to you, that would to any idle, inattentive, or deficient Collector, if any of these should appear in your conduct; and the more so as it is owing to the attentive and close watchings of Muse, that this resource has been productive and useful to me, and that many rents have been recovered, which appeared to be desperate, by his activity and perseverance.

If they are admitted in the first instances, you will have a thousand pleas to forbearance; but considering the low and easy rents, at which my Tenants stand, I know of none which ought to be admitted except losses by fire, by storms, or such droughts as are apparent and well attested; for bad crops proceeding from idleness, may, and will be a constant plea as they ought to be inadmissible.

It is of essential consequence that you should examine accurately whether the covenants in the leases, with respect to the buildings to be erected, Orchards to be planted, meadows to be made, and woods to be preserved, have been complied with. These were important objects with me at the time the leases were granted, and are so still, well knowing how much they would contribute to enhance the value of the lots, at the expiration of the term for which the leases were given. My best wishes attend Mrs. Lewis and yourself, and I remain Your affectionate Uncle.

P. S. If, as I have heard, you should not conceive the collection of my rents to be an object sufficient to engage your attention, the letter for Mr. Muse is not to be given him.[39]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 17, 1791.

The President of the U. States doth hereby order and direct, that the sale of Lots in the City of Washington, to commence this day, be of such Lots as the Commissioners, or any two of them shall think proper; that the same sale shall be under their direction, and on the terms they shall publish.[40]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

George Town, October 17, 1791.

My dear Sir: I am thus far on my way to Philadelphia, and if the disagreeableness of the weather (for it is now raining) does not prevent it, shall proceed to Bladensburgh at least to

[39] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[40] A contemporary copy, by Bartholomew Dandridge, is in the *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

night; but be my dispatch what it probably may, the mail which leaves this tomorrow, will arrive in Philadelphia before me.

This being the case, and time pressing, I forward the enclosed suggestions of Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison, who are both at this place and from whom I requested information of the several matters that had occurred to them, proper for communication.[41] I am etc.[42]

*To DAVID STUART

Bladensburg, October 18, 1791.
half past 5 Oclock A M.

Dear Sir: I pray you to drop me a line by the Mail of tomorrow (which closes in the evening) informing me of the number of Lots sold, and the amount of them. When the business of the meeting is ended I shall be obliged to you for some acct. of the final issue of the Sales &ca.

I am now writing by Candle light, and this is the only piece of paper the Land lord is able to procure for me. We shall, bad as the weather is set out in less than half an hour.[43] With best wishes for successful labour in the work you are engaged in I remain Your etc. [H.S.P.]

To JAMES MADISON

Friday morn'g, [October 21, 1791].

As the communications herewith enclosed will not take much time to read; as there are matters related which *to me* are new; and as the information respecting land transactions,

[41] To Congress.
[42] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[43] On October 21 Washington arrived in Philadelphia.

and other things in the Western Country will require to be noticed and acted upon in some way or another, I send them to you together with a Gazette with a marked paragraph, containing some suggestions that have not, I believe, been touched upon in any of the Papers I gave you yesterday, but are handed to you for the same purpose that they were, ie, merely for Consideration.[44]

THIRD ANNUAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

October 25, 1791.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I meet you, upon the present occasion, with the feelings which are naturally inspired by a strong impression of the prosperous situation of our common Country, and by a persuasion equally strong that the labours of the present[45] Session, which has just commenced, will, under the guidance of a spirit no less prudent than patriotic, issue in measures, conducive to the stability and increase of national prosperity.

Numerous as are the Providential blessings which demand our grateful acknowledgments; the abundance with which another year has again rewarded the industry of the husbandman is too important to escape recollection.

Your own observations, in your respective situations, will have satisfied you of the progressive state of Agriculture, Manufactures, Commerce and Navigation: In tracing their causes, you will have remarked, with particular pleasure, the happy effects of that revival of confidence, public as well as private, to which the Constitution and Laws of the United States have

[44] The text is taken from the printed copy in the *Washington-Madison Papers* (McGuire Collection, sale of 1892).

[45] Richardson's *Messages and Papers of the Presidents* omits the word "present."

so eminently contributed: And you will have observed, with no less interest, new and decisive proofs of the increasing reputation and credit of the Nation. But you nevertheless, cannot fail to derive satisfaction from the confirmation of these circumstances, which will be disclosed, in the several official communications, that will be made to you in the course of your deliberations.

The rapid subscriptions to the Bank of the United States, which completed the sum allowed to be subscribed, in a single day, is among the striking and pleasing evidences which present themselves, not only of confidence in the Government, but of resource in the community.

In the interval of your recess due attention has been paid to the execution of the different objects which were specially provided for by the laws and Resolutions of the last Session.

Among the most important of these is the defence and security of the Western Frontiers. To accomplish it on the most humane principles was a primary wish.

Accordingly, at the same time that treaties have been provisionally concluded, and other proper means used to attach the wavering, and to confirm in their friendship, the well-disposed tribes of Indians; effectual measures have been adopted to make those of a hostile description sensible that a pacification was desired upon terms of moderation and justice.

These measures having proved unsuccessful, it became necessary to convince the refractory of the power of the United States to punish their depredations. Offensive operations have therefore been directed; to be conducted however, as consistently as possible with the dictates of humanity. Some of these have been crowned with full success, and others are yet depending. The expeditions which have been completed were

carried on under the authority, and at the expense of the United States by the Militia of Kentucke; whose enterprise, intripidity and good conduct, are entitled to peculiar commendation.

Overtures of peace are still continued to the deluded Tribes, and considerable numbers of individuals belonging to them, have lately renounced all further opposition, removed from their former situations, and placed themselves under the immediate protection of the United States.

It is sincerely to be desired that all need of coercion, in future, may cease; and that an intimate intercourse may succeed; calculated to advance the happiness of the Indians, and to attach them firmly to the United States.

In order to this it seems necessary: That they should experience the benefits of an impartial administration [46] of justice. That the mode of alienating their lands the main source of discontent and war, should be so defined and regulated, as to obviate imposition, and, as far as may be practicable, controversy concerning the reality, and extent of the alienations which are made. That commerce with them should be promoted under regulations tending to secure an equitable deportment towards them, and that such rational experiments should be made, for imparting to them the blessings of civilization, as may, from time to time suit their condition. That the Executive of the United States should be enabled to employ the means to which the Indians have been long accustomed for uniting their immediate Interests with the preservation of Peace. And that efficatious provision should be made for inflicting adequate penalties upon all those who, by violating their rights, shall infringe the Treaties, and endanger the peace of the Union.

[46] Richardson has "dispensation."

A System corrisponding with the mild principles of Religion and Philanthropy towards an unenlightened race of Men, whose happiness materially depends on the conduct of the United States, would be as honorable to the national character as conformable to the dictates of sound policy.

The powers specially vested in me by the Act laying certain duties on distilled spirits, which respect the subdivisions of the districts into Surveys, the appointment of Officers, and the assignment of compensations, have likewise been carried into effect. In a matter in which both materials and experience were wanting to guide the calculation, it will be readily conceived that there must have been difficulty in such an adjustment of the rates of compensation as would conciliate a reasonable competency with a proper regard to the limits prescribed by the law. It is hoped that the circumspection, which has been used will be found in the result to have secured the last of the two objects; but it is probable, that with a view to the first, in some instances, a revision of the provision will be found adviseable.

The impressions with which this law has been received by the community, have been, upon the whole, such as were to be expected among enlightened and well-disposed Citizens, from the propriety and necessity of the measure. The novelty, however of the tax, in a considerable part of the United States, and a misconception of some of its provisions, have given occasion, in particular places to some degree of discontent. But it is satisfactory to know that this disposition yields to proper explanations and more just apprehensions of the true nature of the law. and I entertain a full confidence, that it will, in all, give way to motives which arise out of a just sense of duty, and a virtuous regard to the public welfare.

If there are any circumstances, in the law, which consistently with its main design, may be so varied as to remove any well

intentioned objections, that may happen to exist, it will consist with a wise moderation to make the proper variations. It is desirable on all occasions, to unite with a steady and firm adherence to constitutional and necessary Acts of Government, the fullest evidence of a disposition, as far as may be practicable, to consult the wishes of every part of the Community, and to lay the foundations of the public administration in the affection[47] of the people.

Pursuant to the authority contained in the several Acts on that subject, a district of ten miles square for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States has been fixed, and announced by proclamation; which district will comprehend lands on both sides of the River Potomack, and the towns of Alexandria and George Town. A City has also been laid out agreeably to a plan which will be placed before Congress: And as there is a prospect, favoured by the rate of sales which have already taken place, of ample funds for carrying on the necessary public buildings, there is every expectation of their due progress.

The completion of the Census of the Inhabitants, for which provision was made by law, has been duly notified (excepting in one instance in which the return has been informal, and another in which it has been omitted or miscarried) and the returns of the Officers, who were charged with this duty, which will be laid before you, will give you the pleasing assurance that the present population of the United States borders on four Millions of persons.

It is proper also to inform you that a further loan of two millions and a half of Florins has been completed in Holland; the terms of which are similar to those of the one last announced,

[47] Richardson makes this word "affections."

except as to a small reduction of charges. Another on like terms, for six Millions of Florins, had been set on foot under circumstances that assured immediate completion.

Gentlemen of the Senate:

Two treaties, which have been provisionally concluded with the Cherokees and Six Nations of Indians, will be laid before you for your consideration and ratification.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

In entering upon the discharge of your legislative trust, you must anticipate with pleasure, that many of the difficulties, necessarily incident to the first arrangements of a new Government, for an extensive Country, have been happily surmounted by the zealous, and judicious exertions of your predecessors, in co-operation with the other branch of the legislature. The important objects, which remain to be accomplished, will, I am persuaded, be conducted upon principles equally comprehensive, and equally well calculated for the advancement of the general weal.

The time limited for receiving subscriptions to the loans proposed by the Act making provision for the debt of the United States having expired, statements from the proper department will, as soon as possible, apprize you of the exact result. Enough, however is already known, to afford an assurance that the views of that Act have been substantially fulfilled. The subscription in the domestic debt of the United States, has embraced by far the greatest proportion of that debt; affording at the same time proof of the general satisfaction of the public Creditors with the System which has been proposed to their acceptance, and of the spirit of accommodation to the convenience of the Government with which they are actuated. The subscriptions in the debts of the respective States, as far as the provisions of the law have permitted, may be said to be yet more general. The

part of the debt of the United States, which remains unsubscribed, will naturally engage your further deliberations.

It is particularly pleasing to me to be able to announce to you, that the revenues which have been established, promise to be adequate to their objects; and may be permitted, if no unforeseen exigency occurs, to supercede, for the present, the necessity of any new burthens upon our Constituents.

An Object which will claim your early attention, is, a provision for the current service of the ensuing year, together with such ascertained demands upon the Treasury as require to be immediately discharged; and such casualties as may have arisen in the execution of the public business, for which no specific appropriations may have yet been made; of all which a proper estimate will be laid before you.

Gentlement of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives:

I shall content myself with a general reference to former communications for several objects, upon which the urgency of other affairs has hitherto postponed any definite resolution. Their importance will recall them to your attention; and I trust that the progress already made in the most arduous arrangements of the Government, will afford you leisure to resume them with advantage.

There are, however, some of them of which I cannot forbear a more particular mention. These are, the Militia; the Post-Office and Post-roads; the Mint; Weights and Measures; a provision for the sale of the vacant lands of the United States.

The first is certainly an object of primary importance, whether viewed in reference to the national security, to the satisfaction of the community, or to the preservation of order. In connection with this, the establishment of competent Magazines

and Arsenals, and the fortification of such places as are peculiarly important and vulnerable, naturally present themselves to consideration. The safety of the United States, under Divine protection, ought to rest on the basis of systematic and solid arrangements; exposed as little as possible to the hazard of fortuitous circumstances.

The importance of the Post-Office and Post-Roads, on a plan sufficiently liberal and comprehensive, as they respect the expedition, safety and facility of communication, is increased by the instrumentality in diffusing a knowledge of the laws and proceedings of the government; which, while it contributes to the security of the people, serves also to guard them against the effects of misrepresentation and misconception. The establishment of additional cross-posts, especially to some of the important points in the Western and Northern parts of the Union, cannot fail to be of material Utility.

The disorders in the existing currency, and especially the scarcity of small change, a scarcity so peculiarly distressing to the poorer classes, strongly recommend the carrying into immediate effect the resolution already entered into concerning the establishment of a Mint. Measures have been taken, pursuant to that Resolution, for procuring some of the most necessary Artists, together with the requisite Apparatus.

An uniformity in the weights and measures of the Country is among the important objects submitted to you by the Constitution, and if it can be derived from a standard at once invariable and universal, must be no less honorable to the public Councils than conducive to the public convenience.

A provision for the sale of the vacant lands of the United States is particularly urged, among other reasons, by the important considerations that they are pledged as a fund for reimbursing

the public debt; that if timely and judiciously applied, they may save the necessity of burthening our citizens with new taxes for the extinguishment of the principal; and that being free to discharge the principal but in a limited proportion no opportunity ought to be lost for availing the public of its right.[48]

To THE SENATE

United States, October 26, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I have directed the Secretary of War, to lay before you for your consideration, all the papers relative to the negociations with the Cherokee Indians, and the treaty concluded with that tribe, on the 2nd day of July last,[49] by the Superintendent of the Southern district; and I request your advice whether I shall ratify the same.

I also lay before you the instructions to Colonel Pickering, and his conferences with the six Nations of Indians. These conferences were for the purpose of conciliation, and at a critical period to withdraw those Indians to a greater distance from the theatre of war, in order to prevent their being involved therein.

It might not have been necessary to have requested your opinion on this business, had not the Commissioner, with good intentions, but incautiously, made certain ratifications of

[48] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The last paragraph was suggested by Jefferson, a press copy of which, under date of October 23, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On October 28 the Members of the House of Representatives proceeded to the President's house where the Speaker delivered the reply of the House to the addresses of the President, who replied briefly and formally. Both these addresses and reply are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On October 31 the Members of the Senate proceeded to the President's house where the Vice President delivered the address of the Senate in reply to the addresses of the President. To this the President replied formally. Both this address and the reply are entered in the "Letter Book."

[49] On November 10 the Senate ratified this treaty.

lands, unauthorized by his instructions, and unsupported by the Constitution.

It therefore became necessary to disavow the transaction explicitly, in a letter written by my orders to the Governor of New York, on the 17th of August last.

The Speeches to the Cornplanter, and other Seneka Chiefs, the instructions to Colo. Procter[50] and his report, and other messages and directions are laid before you for your information, and as evidences that all proper lenient measures preceded the exercise of coertion.

The letters to the Chief of the Creeks, are also laid before you, to evince that the requisite steps have been taken, to produce a full compliance with the treaty made with that nation on the 7th. of August 1790.[51]

[50] Col. Thomas Procter.

[51] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

A question of official etiquette respecting the visits of Ministers having been raised in the Senate it was referred to the President on October 24, whereupon the following memorandum was entered in the "Letter Book" (under date of October 26) by Tobias Lear:

"On the morning of this day the President requested Mr. Butler (who had to pass by his house) to give him a call on his way to the Senate Chamber; and in this interview the President informed Mr. Butler, that after the best consideration which time and circumstances had allowed him to bestow on the subject of etiquette, which had been submitted to him on the 24 instant, he thought it most advisable that he should give no opinion thereon, first, because as a public character he had no power to decide the point, secondly, as a private one it would only be committing sentiments that would be void of operation, that is, which might have no effect on those whose opinions did not coincide therewith, and thirdly, because it might open an avenue to more extensive discussion of points of Etiquette than he should chuse to be engaged in. This opinion the President requested Major Butler to communicate to Mr. Izard and Mr. Burr, with a view to save them the trouble of calling upon him; to whom, however, if they inclined to do it, he would repeat the same sentiments.

"About three o'clock these Gentlemen were again deputed to wait upon the President and present to him the following Resolutions of the Senate, the last of which, it seems, applies to them as well out of, as while in Session, because they say they are liable to be called upon in their Executive capacity, whenever the President shall think it proper to do it."

On October 26 the Senate voted unanimously that Senators "may, with propriety, pay the first visit on all Ambassadors after they shall be received by the President and announced by him to the public, in consideration of their being the Representatives of the persons and dignities of their respective Sovereigns, and that the Senators will expect to receive the first visit from all other Ministers . . . this rule shall be considered as universal."

*To JAMES MADISON

Thursday, October 27, 1791.

My dear Sir: Enclosed I return you the list of Sales in the Federal City.

You will oblige me, by drafting a short answer to the address,[52] to be presented tomorrow, and sending it to me this Evening or in the Morning early. If you want the address let me know it and it shall be sent to you. Yours, Sincerely and Affectly.[53]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, October 27, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you a copy of a letter and of sundry documents which I have received from the Governor of Pennsylvania, respecting certain persons who are said to have fled from justice out of the State of Pennsylvania into that of Virginia; together with a report of the Attorney General upon the subject.

I have received from the Governor of North Carolina a copy of an Act of the General Assembly of that State authorizing him to convey to the United States the right and jurisdiction of the said State over one acre of land in Occacock Island, and ten acres on the Cape Island within the said State, for the purpose of erecting light houses thereon, together with the deed of the Governor in pursuance thereof, and the original

[52] Of the House of Representatives of October 28.

[53] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Capt. F. L. Pleadwell, U. S. Navy Medical Corps, from the Archives of Hawaii, where the original, which is owned by Bruce Cartwright, is on deposit (1932).

conveyances made to the State by the individual proprietors, which original conveyances contain conditions that the light house on Occacock shall be built before the first day of January 1801, and that on the Cape Island before the 8th. day of October 1800. And I have caused these several papers to be deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State.

A statement of the returns of the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States,[54] which have been received, will at this time be laid before you.[55]

To HARRIET WASHINGTON[56]

Philadelphia, October 30, 1791.

Dear Harriot: I have received your letter of the 21st. instant, and shall always be glad to hear from you. When my business will permit inclination will not be wanting in me to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, and this I shall do more cheerfully as it will afford me opportunities at those times of giving you such occasional advice, as your situation may require.

At present I could plead a better excuse for curtailing my letter to you than you had for shortening of yours to me, having a multitude of business before me while you have nothing to do, consequently you might, with equal convenience to yourself, have set down to write your letter an hour or two, or even a day sooner, as to have delayed it until your Cousin was on the point of sending to the Post-Office. I make this remark

[54] A tabular statement of this "enumeration" (the first census) is printed in the *Annals of Congress*.

On October 27 Washington addressed a brief message to the Senate and House of Representatives, respecting the reports of General Scott and Lieutenant Colonel Wilkinson, on their expeditions against the Wabash and Wea Indians in June and August, 1791. This message is printed in Richardson's *Messages and Papers of the President* in the *Annals of Congress*.

[55] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[56] Daughter of Washington's deceased brother Samuel.

for no other reason than to shew you it is better to offer no excuse than a bad one, if at any time you should happen to fall into an error.

Occupied as my time now is, and must be during the sitting of Congress, I nevertheless will endeavor to inculcate upon your mind the delicacy and danger of that period, to which you are now arrived under peculiar circumstances. You are just entering into the state of womanhood, without the watchful eye of a Mother to admonish, or the protecting aid of a Father to advise and defend you; you may not be sensible that you are at this moment about to be stamped with that character which will adhere to you through life; the consequence of which you have not perhaps attended to, but be assured it is of the utmost importance that you should.

Your cousins, with whom you live are well qualified to give you advice, and I am sure they will if you are disposed to receive it. But if you are disobliging, self-willed, and untowardly it is hardly to be expected that they will engage themselves in unpleasant disputes with you, especially Fanny, whose mild and placid temper will not permit her to exceed the limits of wholesome admonition or gentle rebuke. Think then to what dangers a giddy girl of 15 or 16 must be exposed in circumstances like these. To be under but little or no controul may be pleasing to a mind that does not reflect, but this pleasure cannot be of long duration, and reason, too late perhaps, may convince you of the folly of mis-spending time. You are not to learn, I am certain, that your fortune is small; supply the want of it then with a well cultivated mind; with dispositions to industry and frugality; with gentleness of manners, obliging temper, and such qualifications as will attract notice, and recommend you to a happy establishment for life.

You might instead of associating with those from whom you can derive nothing that is good, but may have observed every thing that is deceitful, lying, and bad, become the intimate companion of and aid to your Cousin in the domestic concerns of the family. Many Girls before they have arrived at your age have been found so trustworthy as to take the whole trouble of a family from their Mothers; but it is by a steady and rigid attention to the rules of propriety that such confidence is obtained, and nothing would give me more pleasure than to hear that you had acquired it. The merits and benefits of it would redound more to your advantage in your progress thro' life, and to the person with whom you may in due time form a matrimonial connexion than to any others; but to none would such a circumstance afford more real satisfaction, than to Your affectionate Uncle.[57]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, October 31, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I send you herewith the arrangement which has been made by me, pursuant to the Act, entitled "An Act repealing, after the last day of June next, the duties heretofore laid upon distilled Spirits imported from abroad, and laying others in their stead, and also upon spirits, distilled within the United States, and for appropriating the same", in respect to the subdivision of the several districts, created by the said Act, into surveys of Inspection, the appointment of Officers for the same, and the assignment of compensations.[58] [CH. H. S.]

[57] In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.
[58] In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

To CHARLES VANCOUVER[59]

Saturday, November 5, 1791.

Sir: The President of the United States has received your letter of this date[60] offering for his acceptance a curiously invented plough and in obedience to his command I have the honor to inform you that the President has a grateful sense of your politeness in requesting his acceptance of this machine, and although it would be inconsistent with his general rule to receive it as a present yet he would gladly become possessed of it by paying the cost, was he not fully convinced, from repeated experiments, that all machines used in husbandry that are of a complicated nature, would be entirely useless to him, and impossible to be introduced into common use where they are to be worked by ignorant and clumsy hands, which must be the case in every part of this country where the ground is tilled by negroes; and, as you observe that this plough is adapted to light and gentle soils, this would alone destroy its utility to the President, the land which he cultivates about Mount Vernon being of a remarkably stiff and tenacious nature. I have the honor etc.[61]

To MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE[62]

Philadelphia, November 7, 1791.

My Lord: The letter with which you were pleased to honor me, dated the 4th. of July, was presented to me by Lord Wycombe.[63]

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[59] Then at the "Connestoga Wagon" tavern in Philadelphia.

[60] In the *Washington Papers*.

[61] This letter is signed "T. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[62] William Petty.

[63] Sons of the Marquis of Landsdowne.

Permit me to thank your Lordship for introducing so worthy and intelligent a young Nobleman to my acquaintance, and to regret that his stay in this Country is so short as not to have allowed him to investigate it more. We flatter ourselves however that the impression it has made on him is not unfavorable, and we should have hoped a better knowledge of it would not have weakened the first impressions.

This Country has a grateful recollection of the agency your Lordship had in settling the dispute between Great Britain and it, and in fixing the boundary between them: It is to be wished that the same liberal policy was pursued, and every germe of discontent removed, that they might be reciprocally beneficial to each other, their laws, language, and customs being much assimilated [*sic*]. I beg your Lordship to be assured of the great respect and consideration, with which I have the honor etc.[64]

To ALEXANDER MOULTRIE

Philadelphia, November 7, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 1st. of October, informing me of the alteration which had taken place in the plans and intentions of the south Carolina Yazou company, was received with much pleasure and satisfaction.

This change of measures is highly worthy of the good sense which dictated it. To have proceeded on the former plan would have been acting in direct violation of the laws and proclamations made and issued under the authority of the United States.

[64] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On November 8 Washington wrote to Gov. Charles Pinckney, of South Carolina, introducing Lord Wycombe, the son of the Marquis of Landsdowne. He wrote similar letters, on the same date, to John Rutledge, William Moultrie, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, and Edward Rutledge. These letters are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To have persisted in a conduct of this kind would have been as little becoming the character of good citizens as consistent with the good sense which the Company have now shewn they are possessed of.

It was with extreme regret that I have heretofore received information of the plans and intentions of this Company, considering that their views, if carried into effect, would militate with the best interests of the United States. But I was never without hope that upon a serious and candid review of the matter, and the consequences which it might produce, their better judgment would lead to the measure which I am now happy to find they have adopted.

Permit me here to observe that any communications which have been made to me on this subject cannot be considered as coming to me in my official capacity, it would therefore be improper for me to lay them before the Legislature of the United States, and I must request you will consider this letter as written in my private, not in my public character.

I beg you to be assured, Sir, that I have a proper sense of those sentiments of personal respect and attachment which are expressed in your letter, and that I am etc.[65]

To GOVERNOR CHARLES PINCKNEY

Philadelphia, November 8, 1791.

Sir: I have the pleasure to inform your Excellency that your letters of the 18th. of August and 20th. of September, with their duplicates, and the several papers accompanying them, came duly to hand.

The first was received at the time I was making arrangements to go to Mount Vernon, and the second when I was preparing

[65] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

my communications for Congress at the opening of the present Session, this will account for my not having sooner acknowledged the receipt of them.

Your favour of the 18th. of August has been communicated to the Secretary of State within whose department foreign affairs are, and I enclose you a copy of his observations to me on that subject.

Similar applications to those mentioned in your favour of the 20th. of September, for aid from our neighbours of St. Domingo, had come here during my absence in Virginia, and the officers of government had paid due attention to them by furnishing such as our situation admitted, and the Minister of France approved. I feel sincerely those sentiments of sympathy which you so properly express for the distresses of our suffering brethren in that quarter, and deplore their causes. We have not as yet any information which may lead us to hope they will soon be at an end. I am etc.[66]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Wednesday, November 9, 1791.

Dear Sir: Enclosed is the letter to Majr. Pinckney.[67] For the reason's mentioned to you yesterday, I prefer London to Paris for his Mission. Yrs. etc.[68]

To JOHN KEAN

Philadelphia, November 10, 1791.

Sir: The weighty consideration which you mention as having determined you to accept the appointment of Cashier to

[66] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[67] Thomas Pinckney.
[68] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

the Bank of the U. States, and the disinterested manner in which you have offered to continue your services to the government, as far as may be compatible with the duties of your new station, conspire to induce my approbation of your conduct.

As it is stated that so considerable a progress has been made by the commissioners in the business confided to them, that the determination of a few more important questions may enable the Clerks to proceed in the completion of it, with the exception of some particular cases: And as the time assigned by Law for the termination of the Commission expires in July next; I conclude that it will be advisable for you to continue to act 'till that period, if experience shall not in the meantime evince that the want of a more entire attention to the object than you will be able to bestow is prejudicial or inconvenient to the public service.

It will remain with you to concert with your Collegues the mode in which you can best cooperate with them; as on the arrangement which can be made in this respect, with reciprocal accommodation and without retarding the public business must essentially depend the propriety of continuing or relinquishing the idea of your future aid.

I shall think it proper that compensation be made for the service which shall be rendered by you.[69]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, November 10, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: The Resolution passed at the last Session of Congress, requesting the President of the United States to cause an estimate

[69] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

to be laid before Congress at their next Session of the quantity and situation of the lands not claimed by the Indians, nor granted to, nor claimed by any of the Citizens of the United States within the territory ceded to the United States by the State of North Carolina, and within the territory of the United States North West of the River Ohio, has been referred to the Secretary of State; a copy of whose report on the subject[70] I now lay before you, together with the copy of a letter accompanying it.[71]

To GOVERNOR ALEXANDER MARTIN

Philadelphia, November 14, 1791.

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your Excellency's private letter of the 27th of September, which accompanied your public communication of the cession of certain pieces of land in North Carolina for the purpose of building light-houses thereon.

I request your Excellency will receive my thanks for the kind Congratulations which you express on my return from my southern tour in perfect health; and at the same time I beg you to be assured, that the reception which I met with among the Citizens of North Carolina, as well as those of the other states which I visited, was in the highest degree pleasing and satisfactory. My object in that journey was not to be received with parade and an ostentatious display of opulence. It was for a nobler purpose. To see with my own eyes the situation of the Country, and to learn on the spot the condition and disposition of our Citizens. In these respects I have been highly gratified, and to a sensible mind the effusions of affection and

[70] A press copy of this report is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress under date of Nov. 8, 1791.

[71] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

personal regard which were expressed on so many occasions is no less grateful, than the marks of respect shewn to my official Character were pleasing in a public view. I am etc.[72]

To MARY BRISTON

Philadelphia, November 14, 1791.

Madam: By the enclosed letter (which has been sent to London and returned to me in consequence of your not being found agreeably to its direction) you will see I was not inattentive to the letter which you wrote to me on the 22nd. of October 1790. Since which time I have received another letter from you to the same effect as the former dated July 5, 1791, and as circumstances continue to be the same with me as when the enclosed letter was written, that will serve as a reply to both. I will take the liberty to add that if your application should be made to some Gentleman in Virginia, on whose good offices you could depend, it might be the means of satisfying your enquiries on that subject. I have the honor etc.[73]

To REVEREND ELIPHALET PEARSON

Philadelphia, November 14, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 10th. of September enclosing by order of the American academy of arts and sciences, Judge Lowell's[74] eulogy on the late Governor Bowdoin.[75]

I must beg, sir, you will present my proper acknowledgments to the Academy, for this mark of attention, and at the same time receive yourself my thanks for the polite manner in which

[72] In the writing of Tobias Lear. From a photostat of the original in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

[73] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[74] John Lowell. He was United States judge for the District of Massachusetts.

[75] Gov. James Bowdoin.

you have transmitted to me the eulogy on that worthy character, and for the catalogue of Harvard College which accompanied it. I am etc.[76]

To MONSIEUR JORRÉ

November 15, 1791.

Sir: The President of the United States has received the letter which you addressed to him on the 12 instant, and in obedience to his command I have the honor to observe to you that the President is very sorry that circumstances and propriety do not admit of gratifying, so far as might depend on him, the views and expectations with which you appear to have come to this country.

It is perhaps a fact too well known to make it necessary to mention it here, that numerous applications are made for every office created under this government, and it always happens where an office is desirable either for its respectability or emolument that it is sought for by those who have rendered services to their country in the course of the revolution either in the cabinet or the field, and so far from wanting men of respectable

[76] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On November 14 Lear wrote to Rev. Elhanan Winchester, in London, England, acknowledging for the President "a set of your lectures upon the prophecies that remain to be fulfilled." Lear's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (November 14) Lear also wrote to Rev. Auley Macauley, the President had received his letter "in behalf of a poor old man in your neighbourhood whom you mention as a near relation of the late Dr. Franklin, and request that the President will bring the situation of this poor man and his grandson before Congress to obtain some relief for them. In obedience to the President's commands, I have the honor to inform you that the President brings no business before Congress but what is of a public nature, and such as his official character renders it necessary for him to communicate to that Body. His departure therefore in this case from his uniform practice could not be warranted. The President moreover directs me to inform you that Dr. Franklin has left several near relations with handsome property in this city, to whom, or through whom it seems most proper that application should be made, and that there is most probably a Grandson of Dr. Franklin's in London at this time (he having gone over there last Fall)." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

talents to fill places which require them that it is frequently a nice point to determine who among the applicants of this character have the best claims to public notice on account of services rendered. Upon this view of the matter the President is convinced, Sir, that your own good sense must approve of the conduct, which he uniformly pursues in making nomination of appointments to office, which is to unite in the applicant fitness of character and abilities with services rendered to the public in the time of common danger, and sure the President is that you must see the imputation which would certainly follow the appointment of a foreigner to an office whatever may be his abilities in preference to those who have fought and bled for their country and are fully equal to the discharge of the duties of its several offices.

The President conceives it unnecessary to point out to you the advantages which are held out to foreigners by this government. It grants them equal protection with its own citizens, and leaves them in the full exercise of all their rights civil and religious; but for the reasons before mentioned he is persuaded you will see the justice as well as propriety of giving a preference to our own citizens in all appointments to offices. I am etc.[77]

To DOCTOR JAMES CRAIK

Philadelphia, November 16, 1791.

Dear Sir: The Office of Auditor in the Department of the Treasury of the United States is not yet filled. Reasons unnecessary to detail at this time have hitherto prevented it. The enclosed points out what is expected from the Officer and the emoluments of the office.

[77] This letter is signed "T. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

If Mr. Richard Harrison,[78] now your Son in law (on which I congratulate you) inclines to accept it, I will bring him forward in nomination to the Senate.

He must decide without delay, and if on the side of acceptance he must come on without loss of time as there are many candidates for that office and the public business suffering for want of the appointment. Let me hear from you or him by the return of the Post.

My best wishes, in which Mrs. Washington unites, attend you, Mrs. Craik and the rest of your family. I am etc.[79]

*To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, November 20, 1791.

Dear Sir: I had heard before the receipt of your letter of the 29th. of October, and with a degree of surprize and concern not easy to be expressed, that Majr. L'Enfant had refused the Map of the Federal City when it was requested by the Commissioners for the satisfaction of the purchasers at Sale. It is much to be regretted, however common the case is, that men who possess talents which fit them for peculiar purposes should almost invariably be under the influence of an untoward disposition, or are sottish idle, or possessed of some other disqualification by which they plague all those with whom they are concerned. But I did not expect to have met with such perverseness in Major L'Enfant as his late conduct exhibited.[80]

Since my first knowledge of the Gentleman's abilities in the line of his profession, I have received him not only as a scientific

[78] Nominated to the Senate on Nov. 25, 1791, and confirmed November 29.

[79] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[80] L'Enfant's attitude of "perverseness" was due to his suspicions that the Commissioners were more interested in real estate speculations than in the development of the city. His refusal to subordinate his work to the need of raising funds for the project was the foundation of the misunderstandings which followed.

man but one who added considerable taste to professional knowledge; and that, for such employment as he is now engaged in; for projecting public works; and carrying them into effect, he was better qualified than any one who had come within my knowledge in this Country, or indeed in any other the probability of obtaining whom could be counted upon.

I had no doubt, at the same time, that this was the light in which he considered himself; and of course that he would be so tenacious of his plans as to conceive they would be marred if they underwent any change or alteration; but I did not suppose that he wd. have interfered further in the mode of selling the lots, than by giving an opinion with his reasons in support of it: and this perhaps it might be well always to hear, as the latter would stamp the propriety, or shew the futility of it. To advise this, I am the more inclined, as I am persuaded that all those who have any Agency in the business have the same objects in view, although they may differ in sentiment with respect to the mode of execution; because, from a source even less productive than L'Enfants, may flow ideas that are capable of improvements; and because I have heard that Ellicot, who is also a man of uncommon talents in his way, and of a more placid temper, has intimated that no information had been required either from him, or L'Enfont on some point or points (I do not now particularly recollect what) which they thought themselves competent to give.

I have no other motive for mentioning the latter circumstance than merely to shew that the feelings of such Men are always alive, and, where there assistance is essential; that it is policy to humour them or to put on the appearance of doing it.

I have, however, since I have come to the knowledge of Majr L'Enfants refusal of the Map, at the Sale, given him to understd. through a direct channel, though not an official one,

as yet (further than what casually passed between us, previous to the Sale, at Mount Vernon) that he must, in future, look to the Commissioners for directions. That, having laid the foundation of this grand design, the Superstructure depended upon them. That I was perfectly satisfied his plans and opinions would have due weight, if properly offered and explained. That if the choice of Commissioners was again to be made I could not please myself better, or hit upon those who had the measure more at heart, or better disposed to accommodate the various interests, and persons concerned; and that it would give me great concern to see a goodly prospect clouded by impediments which might be thrown in the way, or injured by disagreements which would only serve to keep alive the hopes of those who are enemies to the Plan. But, that you may not infer from hence he has expressed any dissatisfaction at the conduct of the Commissioners, towards him, it is an act of justice I should declare that, I never have heard, directly nor indirectly, that he has expressed any. His pertinacity would, I am persuaded, be the same in all cases, and to all men. He conceives, or would have others believe, that the Sale was promoted by with-holding the general map, and thereby, the means of comparison; but I have caused it to be signified to him, that I am of a different opinion; and that it is much easier to impede, than to force a Sale, as none who knew what they were about would be induced to buy, to borrow an old adage "A Pig in a Poke."

There has been something very unaccountable in the conduct of the Engraver, yet I cannot be of opinion the delays were occasioned by L'Enfant. As soon, however, as a correct draught of the City is prepared, the same, or some other person shall be pressed to the execution. I say a *correct* draught, because I have understood that Mr. Ellicot has given it as his

opinion it was lucky that Engravings did not come out from the first Plan, inasmuch as they would not have been so perfectly exact as to have justified a Sale by them. It is of great importance, in my opinion, that the City should be laid out into squares and lots with all the despatch that the nature and accuracy of the Work will admit. And it is the opinion of intelligent and well informed men, now in this City, who are friends to the measure, that for this purpose, and to accommodate the two *great* Interests of George Town and Carrollsburg, it would be advisable, rather than delay another public Sale until the *whole* can be compleated, to lay *all* the ground into squares which shall be West of the Avenue leading from George Town to the Presidents House; thence by the Avenue to the House for Congress, and thence by a *proper* Avenue (I have not the Plan by me to say which) to the Eastern Branch; comprehending the range of Squares next to, and binding on the said Avenues on the East side; and to appoint as early a day for the Sale as a moral certainty of their completion will warrant.

When I speak of the importance of dispatch, it does not proceed from any doubt I harbour, that the enemies to the measure can shake the establishment of it; for it is with pleasure I add as my opinion, that the Roots of the permanent Seat are penetrating deep, and spreading far and wide. The Eastern States are not only getting more and more reconciled to the measure, but are beginning to view it in a more advantageous light as it respects their policy and interests; and some members from that quarter who were its bitterest foes while the question was pending in Congress, have now declared in unequivocal terms to various people, and at various times, that if attempts should be made to repeal the Law they would give it every opposition in their power. These sentiments of the Eastern people being

pretty well known, will, I am persuaded, arrest the design, if a repeal had been contemplated; but it will not prevent those who are irreconcilable, from aiming all the side blows in their power at it: and the rumours, which were spread at the Sale, that Congress never wd. reside there, is one of the expedients that will be exerted in all its force, with a view to discourage the Sales of the Lots, and the buildings thereon, that the accommodations may be unfit for the Government when the period shall arrive that the removal is to take place.

When I see Major L'Enfant (who it is said will shortly be here) I shall endeavr. to bring him to some explanation of the terms on which he will serve the public; and will also impress upon him the necessity of despatch, that as early a Sale as circumstances will admit, may ensue.

When I began this letter, and until I had got to the present stage of it, it was intended as an answer to yours of the 29th of October; but on a reperusal of that of the 21st. of the said month from the Commissioners, I find it will serve as an answer to both; and, as it is of an enormous length, and my head and hands during the Session of Congress are fully employed, I pray you at the first meeting of the Commissioners to lay these Sentiments before them for their *private* information.

I forward the enclosed, as I did a former communication from the same person, that the Commissioners may be apprised of the circumstances attending the Land which is the subject of the letter. No acknowledgment of this, or the former, has been made by me. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.

PS. I fear you have forgot my request, made in behalf of Mr. Young,[81] of England.[82]

[81] Arthur Young.

[82] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, November 21, 1791.

My dear Sir: At the earnest request of Mr. Jorre I make known to you, that he came over to this Country with an idea of obtaining some appointment under our Government; but he now finds that idea to have been false; for propriety, as you, my dear Sir, well know, would not admit of a foreigners being prefered to office before one of our own Countrymen, who suffered so much to effect the revolution, and who certainly ought now to enjoy the official benefits arising from it; especially too, as there is not an office created for which there are not many applicants, and always among them some who claim attention from their public services.

From the recommendation which Mr. Jorre brought to me, he appears to be a man of good character and abilities; and he seems to have given up every other pursuit for the sake of coming here. But finding that he can not accomplish his wishes by obtaining a public appointment, he is about to return to France, and, as I before observed, has earnestly requested I would make known the foregoing circumstances to you, in order that, if he should make any application for an appointment under your Government, he might have some unquestionable proof to produce of the views with which he came to this Country, and of the cause of his disappointment.

But, my dear Sir, you must not conceive from this letter that I mean in any degree to interfere with appointments in France. It is written only for the purpose before mentioned. But at the same time it affords me the pleasure of telling you how much and how sincerely I am etc.[83]

[83] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To WILLIAM SHOTWELL

Philadelphia, November 21, 1791.

Friend Shotwell: The President wants to purchase about one thousand wt. of clover, and six or seven bushels of Timothy-Seed, and wishes you to let him know what they can be bought for now with you. If the seeds are obtained by the month of February next, it will be soon enough for the President's purpose; but he must depend upon them at that time, if he should determine to have them from N. York, which will depend on the price they bear there. You will, therefore, let me know, as soon as you can, after receiving this letter, whether they can be had *now,* and the *price,* and likewise whether it would be best to wait until the month of February for a lower price, or a more plentiful supply. I am etc.[84]

*To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, November 22, 1791.

My dear Sir: Mr. John Trumbull, with whom you are acquainted, is engaged in Painting a series of Pictures of the most important Events of the Revolution in this Country, from which he proposes to have plates engraved. I have taken peculiar satisfaction in giving every proper aid in my power to a subscription for supporting this work, which has been likewise patronized by the principle people of this Country. In the hope of meeting the patronage of the French Nation (to whose honor as well as that of America this plan is directed) Mr. Trumbull informs me he has ordered a Subscription to be opened in Paris. And

[84] This letter is signed "T. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

the object of this letter is to engage your support to the subscription in that City and other parts of the Nation where it may be offered. I should not, however, do justice to Mr. Trumbulls talents and merits were I barely to mention his views and wishes on this occasion.

His pieces, as far as they are executed, meet the warm applause of all who have seen them. The greatness of the design, and the masterly execution of the Work equally interest the man of a capacious mind and the approving eye of the Connoisseur. He has spared no pains in obtaining from the life the likenesses of those characters, French as well as American, who bore a conspicuous part in our Revolution; and the success with which his efforts have been crowned will form no small part of the value of his pieces.

To you, my dear Sir, who know Mr. Trumbull as a man and as an Artist, it would perhaps have been hardly necessary to say so much as I have done on this occasion. But I could not in Justice say less of him when I believe in his profession, he will do much honor to the liberal art of Painting, as well as credit to this his native Country.

I cannot conclude this letter without congratulating you most sincerely on the Kings acceptance of the Constitution presented to him by National Assembly, and upon the happy consequences which promise to flow upon your Country, as well as to mankind in general, from that event. The prayers and wishes of the friends to the human race have attended the exertions of your Nation, and when your affairs are completely settled under an energetic and equal government the hearts of good men will be gratified, and no one will rejoice in your felicity, and for the noble and disinterested part you have acted more than your sincere friend and truly Affectionate &c. [N. Y. H. S.]

*To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, November 23, 1791.

Dear Sir: After closing my letter to you of the 20th. I recollected that I had omitted to take notice of your observation respecting Wood covers to Brick or Stone buildings, in the Federal City.

It is much to be wished that this evil could be avoided without involving a greater; for it is difficult to decide between things to be wished, and things that are attainable. It has a claim however to consideration, and may be decided upon before the next general Sale. In the meanwhile, it might be well to enquire, how far the measure would meet general approbation; what, probably, would be the difficulties in covering with Slate, Tyle, or any thing else which would be proof against fire; and what the difference in expence between these and Shingles: for if the latter is *much* cheaper, and the former difficult to be obtained, buildings will be so discouraged, and the Sales so much impeded thereby, as to render the exclusion of Shingles unadvisable. I am etc.[85]

To WILLIAM SHOTWELL

Philadelphia, November 25, 1791.

Gentlemen: I have received your favor of the 22d. instant, informing of the price of clover and Timothy seed; the former at 1/6 per lb. and the latter from 17/ to 18s. per bushel, and have now to request that you will obtain at once, for the President

[85] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

about four hundred wt. of clover seed, and seven bushels of Timothy.

If there is a certainty of a vessel's sailing from New York for Alexandria, in Virginia, before the Potowmack closes, the President wishes you to send the above seed in her, addressed to Major George A. Washington, at Mount Vernon, to the care of Mr. W. Wilson in Alexandria, and enclose to the President the bill of lading, &c. Should there not be a vessel going from New York, you are then requested to send the seeds to the City by the first vessel that may sail after obtaining them, the there will be a vessel sailing from this place for Alexandria in about 10 or 15 days.

The amount of the seeds, &c. shall be paid immediately upon receiving your account, either to any person you may wish in this place, or it shall be remitted to you.

I will thank you to let me know as soon as you have the seeds in readiness whether they will go from N. York to Alexandria, or be sent to this place. I am etc.[86]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Friday, November 25, 1791.

As the meeting, proposed to be held (at nine o'clock tomorrow morning) with the heads of the Great Departments, is to consider important Subjects belonging (more immediately) to the Department of State, The President desires Mr. Jefferson would commit the several points[87] on which opinions will be asked to Paper, and in the order they ought to be taken up.[88]

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[86] This letter is signed "T. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 6 Lear again wrote to Shotwell that on account of the high price of the clover seed "the President thinks it best to get only two hundred weight instead of four." This letter is also recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[87] A press copy of Jefferson's points to be considered is dated November 26 and is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[88] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To DANIEL CARROLL, OF DUDDINGTON

Philadelphia, November 28, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 21st. came to my hands on thursday afternoon. By the Post of next morning I was unable to answer it; and this is the first opportunity that has offered since by wch. it cd. be done.

It would have been better, and given me more satisfaction if you had made your appeal to the Commissioners; to whom all matters respecting the Federal district and City are now committed; but as you have made it to me, I must furnish you with my opinion; and reasons for it.

First then, permit me to regret, and I do it sincerely, that the dispute between the public and yourself is brought to the point, at which it now stands. But what practicable relief remains for you? I see none. You say yourself if the House *is a nuisance* you agree to its being pulled down. a simple fact decides the question upon your own principles. viz. is the whole, or part of it in the Street? If the answer is in the affirmative, it is unquestionably a nuisance. 1st., because the Street is injured by it; 2dly., because the regulations are infringed; and 3dly., which indeed may be considered as the primary reason, because the original compact is violated.

You add, that other Houses have fallen in the Streets and are suffered to remain: but does it follow from hence that they are to continue in the Streets? and is there not a wide difference between a House *built,* and a house *building?* the first has already incurred all the expence that is necessary to make it habitable; therefore the public will have no more, perhaps not so much, to pay for it 3, 5, or 7 years hence as now; and the possessesor may enjoy the benefit of it in the interim: but would that be the case with a House not covered in, and which, to make

inhabitable, will require a considerable additional expence? Who is to bear this expence when a removal (for a House never will be suffered to obstruct a Street, and a principal street too) takes place? Would you not complain more 5, or even 7 years hence at being obliged to pull down your new building after having incurred (at your own expence) a large additional sum in the completion, than to do it *now* when the Walls only are up? The answer in my opinion is plain; but, in the present state of the building, under the existing circumstances, as there appears to have been some misconception between Majr. L'Enfant and you in this business; I am inclined, in behalf of the public, to offer you the choice of two alternatives: first, to arrest and pull down the building in its present state, and raise it to the same height next Spring, if it is your desire, agreeably to the regulations wch. have been established without any expence to you; or, 2dly. to permit you to finish it at your own cost, and occupy it 6 years from the present date; at which period it *must* be removed, with no other allowance from the public than a valuation for the Walls in the present state of them. I am etc.[89]

*To PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT

Philadelphia, November 28, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 21st. instt.[90] came duly to hand, as did one of the same date from Mr. Carroll of Duddington, on the same subject. A Copy of my answer to the latter is enclosed; by which you will perceive I have proposed an accommodation. As a similar case cannot happen again (Mr. Carroll's house having been begun before the Federal District was fixed upon)

[89] From a draft in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[90] In part is in the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress.

no precedent will be established by yielding a little in the present instance; and it will always be found sound policy to conciliate the good-will rather than provoke the enmity of any man, where it can be accomplished without much difficulty, inconvenience or loss.

Indeed the more harmoniously this, or any other business is conducted, the faster it will progress and the more satisfactory will it be.

Should Mr. Carroll adopt the first alternative mentioned in my letter to him, and there is no pressing cause for taking the building down this Winter,[91] the materials will be less liable to injury by standing as they are, and less apt to be stolen, than if they should be taken down before the period shall arrive for re-erection.

As there is a suspension, at present, of the business which took Mr. Ellicots brother to Georgia, there will be no occasion for his proceeding thither, until he shall receive further advice from me, or from the Department of War. But it is my *earnest* wish, and desire, that he would give every aid in his power to prepare for a large Sale of Lots in the Spring, agreeably to the sentiments which have been communicated to the Commissioners; and It is moreover exceedingly to be wished, that correct Engravings of the City be had, and properly disseminated (*at least*) throughout the United States before such Sale.

A great pressure of business at this time prevents me from adding more than that I am etc.[92]

[91] L'Enfant had written to the Commissioners that the work of demolishing Carroll's house had already begun, because "he erected that House on a ground he knew was not his . . . and that it was questionable when he proceeded to builth if the whole Spote he possessed himself of should not be thus appropriated."

[92] From a draft in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress. The letter sent, which is also in Washington's writing, is in the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress. It varies from the draft in capitalization and punctuation and in having the word " earnest" underscored.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Wednesday, November 30, 1791.

My dear Sir: Mr. L'Enfants letter of the 19th. of Octr. to Mr. Lear, Mr. Lear's answer of the 6th. instt. (the press copy of which is so dull as to be scarcely legible), in which I engrafted sentiments of admonition, and with a view also to feel his pulse under reprehension. His reply of the 10th. to that letter together with the papers I put into your hands when here will give you a full view of the business; and the Majrs. conduct; and will enable you to judge from the complexion of things how far he may be spoken to in decisive terms without loosing his services; which, in my opinion would be a serious misfortune. At the same time *he must know,* there is a line beyond which he will not be suffered to go. Whether it is zeal, an impetuous temper, or other motives that lead him into such blameable conduct I will not take upon me to decide; but be it what it will, it must be checked; or we shall have no Commissioners. I am etc.[93]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, December 1, 1791.

Gentlemen: I receive with real mortification the account of the demolition of Mr. Carrolls house by Major L'Enfant, against his consent, and without authority from yourselves or any other person for you have done me but justice in asserting that he had no such authority from me. My letter of the 28th. Ulto. to Mr. Carroll of Duddington will prove this. I now enclose you the copy of one to Majr. L'Enfant, in which you will see what I say to him on this subject.

[93] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

You are as sensible as I am of his value to us. But this has it's limits, and there is a point beyond which he might be overvalued.

If he is saved from the notice of the law on the present occasion, I would chuse he shd. owe it entirely to yourselves, and that he be made sensible that there will be no interference from me on his behalf.

The enclosed for Mr. Carroll, of Duddington you may either deliver or destroy as it shall seem best to you.

With very great esteem etc.[94]

*To DANIEL CARROLL, OF DUDDINGTON

Philadelphia, December 2, 1791.

Sir: Yesterday I received your letter of the 28th. Ulto. My letter of the same date to you (which you must have recd. before this time) in answer to your favor of the 21st. will have conveyed my sentiments. to you on the unlucky dispute which exists between yourself and Majr. L'Enfant, whose zeal in the public cause has carried him too fast.

What has been done cannot be undone, and it would be unfortunate, in my opinion, if disputes amongst the friends to the federal City should Arm the enemies of it with weapons to wound it. If you should consider the matter in this point of view, and compare it with the communications in my last, you may perhaps think it more advisable to quash, than prosecute the chancery injunction: especially too, as disputes of this kind may injure you more on the large scale in the general sale of the lots than you can possible gain by going into a Court of Chancery. I am etc.[94]

[94] From a press copy in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT

Philadelphia, December 2, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have received with sincere concern the information from yourself as well as others, that you have proceeded to demolish the house of Mr. Carroll of Duddington, against his consent, and without authority from the Commissioners or any other person. In this you have laid yourself open to the Laws, and in a Country where they will have their course. To their animadversion will belong the present case.

In future I must strictly enjoin you to touch no man's property without his consent, or the previous order of the Commissioners. I wished you to be employed in the arrangements of the Federal City: I still wish it: but only on condition that you tend to, some of which, perhaps, may be unknown to you; Commissioners (to whom by law the business is entrusted, and who stands between you and the President of the United States) to the laws of the land, and to the rights of its citizens.

Your precipitate conduct will, it is to be apprehended, give serious alarm and produce disagreeable consequences. Having the beauty, and regularity of your Plan only in view, you pursue it as if every person, and thing was *obliged* to yield to it; whereas the Commissioners have many circumstances to attend to, some of which, perhaps, may be unknown to you; which evinces in a strong point of view the propriety, the necessity and even the safety of your acting by their directions.

I have said, and I repeat it to you again, that it is my firm belief that the Gentlemen now in Office have favorable dispositions towards you, and in all things reasonable and proper, will receive, and give full weight to your opinions; and ascribing to your Zeal the mistakes that have happened, I persuade

myself, under this explanation of matters, that nothing in future will intervene to disturb the harmony which ought to prevail in so interesting a work. With sincere esteem etc.[95]

To JOSHUA JOHNSON

Philadelphia, December 5, 1791.

Sir: The packet which accompanies this, and is addressed to Arthur Young Esquire, is put under a cover to you in order to ensure a safe conveyance for it to that Gentleman; and the sametime I must request you will be so good as to forward it to Mr. Young by some private opportunity, if any should offer without delaying its transmission too long for that purpose, as the expence of postage for so large a packet would probably be considerable. But if no conveyance by a private and safe hand should offer, I must desire you will forward it by the Post, and pay the postage thereon yourself, which you will please to charge in your acct. with the United States. I am etc.

P. S. We have had a report here of the death of Mr. Young.[96] Should this be true, you will please to return the enclosed packet to me.[97]

To BENJAMIN WALKER[98]

Philadelphia, December 5, 1791.

Dear Sir: Finding, on enquiry, that there is no vessel expected to sail for London the present season, and observing in the New York papers that two Ships were advertised to sail from thence to London, I have forwarded to your hands the

[95] From the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[96] Young did not die until the year 1820.
[97] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[98] Naval officer of the port of New York. He was formerly aide to the Commander in Chief.

enclosed packet, addressed to Joshua Johnson Esquire, our Consul at London; and request you will have the goodness to transmit it to that Gentleman by some safe and careful hand. If you know of any person going passenger in either of these vessels, or in the packet, to whom it could be confided, it might perhaps be a good mode of conveying by such an one. My principal object for wishing to have it put into this channel of transmission is, that it may not have to pass thro' the Post-office to get to Mr. Johnson's hands, as it would do, if sent by the ordinary course of the mail. The postage on it would be considerable, and in this instance, an unnecessary expence.

As your situation necessarily gives you a knowledge of all vessels sailing from your port, I have been led to trouble you on this occasion, and must rely on your judgment to give the enclosed such conveyance either by the Captain or some Passenger as may be most likely to carry it directly to its destination; and will thank you to inform me, after you have sent it, by whom, and in what vessel it has gone.

Mrs. Washington unites in best wishes for Mrs. Walker and yourself, with your etc.[99]

*To ARTHUR YOUNG

Philadelphia, December 5, 1791.

Sir: In a letter which I addressed to you on the 15th. of August, acknowledging the receipt of your favor dated the 25th. of January preceeding, I promised to answer the queries contained in it, in detail.

Accordingly, I took measures for that purpose, by writing to some of the most intelligent Farmers in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia; as you will

[99] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

perceive by the circular letter herewith enclosed: and have obtained the answers from the three last mentioned States that are thereunto annexed. I did not extend my enquiries to the Northward of New York, nor to the Southward of Virginia; because in neither extremity of the Union, in my opinion, is the climate, Soil, or other circumstances well adapted to the pursuits of a *mere* Farmer, or congenial to the growth of the smaller Grains.

I have delayed the information I am about to give you, in expectation of receiving answers which have been promised me from the States of New York and New Jersey; but as they are not yet arrived, and a Vessel is on the point of Sailing for London, I shall put this Packet under cover to Joshua Johnson Esqr. our Consul at that Port; with a request to him, that it may be forwarded to you, by a safe conveyance. The others shall follow as opportunities may present; it being my wish to give you a comprehensive view of the different parts of this Country: although I have no hesitation in giving it at the sametime as my opinion, if I had a new establishment to make in it, that it would be, under the knowledge I entertain of it at present (and I have visited all parts from New Hampshire to Georgia inclusively) in one of the three States of which you are furnished with particular Accounts. New York and New Jersey do not differ much in Soil, or Climate, from the Northern parts of Pennsylvania. Both are pleasant, and both are well improved, particularly the first. But the Country beyond these, to the Eastward, (and the farther you advance that way it is still more so) is unfriendly to Wheat, which is subject to a blight or mill-dew, and of late years, to a fly, which has almost discouraged the growth of it. The lands, however, in the New England States are strong, and productive of other Crops; are well improved; populously seated; and as pleasant as it can be in a Country fast locked in Snow sevl. months in the year.

To the Southward of Virginia the climate is not well adapted to Wheat; and less and less so as you penetrate the warmer latitudes; nor is the Country so thickly settled, or well cultivated. In a word, as I have already intimated, was I to commence my career of life anew, I shd. not seek a residence north of Pennsylvania, or South of Virginia: nor, but this I desire may be received with great caution, for I may, without knowing I am so, be biassed in favor of the River on which I live should I go more than 25 miles from the margin of the Potomac, in less than half that distance, in some places I might seat myself either in Pennsylvania, Maryland or Virginia, as local circumstances might prompt me.

Having said thus much, some of the reasons which lead to this opinion, may be expected in support of it. Potomac River then, is the centre of the Union. It is between the extremes of heat and cold. It is not so far to the south as to be unfriendly to grass, nor so far north as to have the produce of the Summer consumed in the length, and severity of the winter. It waters that soil, and runs in that climate, which is most congenial to English grains, and most agreeable to the Cultivators of them.

It is the River, more than any other, in my opinion, which must, in the natural progress of things, connect by its inland navigation (now nearly compleated 190 measured miles up to Fort Cumberland, at the expence of £50,000 Sterlg. raised by private subscription) the Atlantic States with the vast region which is populating (beyond all conception) to the Westward of it. It is designated by law for the seat of the Empire; and must, from its extensive course through a rich and populous country become, in time, the grand Emporium of North America. To these reasons may be added, that, the lands within, and surrounding the district of Columbia are as high, as dry, and as

healthy as any in the United States; and that those above them, in the Counties of Berkeley in Virginia, Washington in Maryland, and Franklin in Pennsylvania (adjoining each other) at the distance of from Sixty to 100 miles from Columbia, are inferior in their natural state to none in America.

The general Map of North America, which is herewith enclosed, will shew the situation of this district of the United States. And on Evans's Map of the Middle Colonies, which is on a larger scale, I have marked the district of Columbia with double red lines; and the Counties adjacent to, and above it, of which particular mention has been made, with single red lines.

The last mentioned Map shews the proximity of the Potowmac (which is laid down from actual Survey) to the Western Waters, and it is worthy of observation, that the Shenandore, in an extent of 150 miles from its confluence, through the richest tract of land in the State of Virginia, may (as is supposed) be made navigable for less than £2,000. The South branch of Potowmac (100 miles higher up, and) for a hundred miles of its extent, may be made navigable for a much less sum. And the intermediate waters on the Virginia side, in that proportion, according to their magnitude. On the Maryland side (the river Potowmac to the head of the North branch being the boundary between the two States) the Monocasy and Conogocheag are capable of improvement to a degree which will be convenient and benificial to the Inhabitants of that State, and to parts of Pennsylvania.

The local, or State taxes, are enumerated in the answers to the circular letter; and these from the nature of the Government, will probably decrease. The taxes of the General Government will be found in the Revenue laws, which are contained in the volume that accompanies this letter.

"The Pennsylvania Mercury, and Philadelphia Price current" is sent that you may see what is, and has been, the prices of the several enumerated Articles which have been bought, and sold in this market at different periods, within the last twelve months.

An English farmer must entertain a contemptible opinion of our husbandry, or a horrid idea of our lands, when he shall be informed that not more than 8 or 10 bushels of Wheat is the yield of an Acre; but this low produce may be ascribed, and principally too, to a cause which I do not find touched by either of the Gentlemen whose letters are sent to you, namely, that the aim of the farmers in this Country (if they can be called farmers) is not to make the most they can from the land, which is, or has been cheap, but the most of the labour, which is dear, the consequence of which has been, much ground has been *scratched* over and none cultivated or improved as it ought to have been; Whereas a farmer in England, where land is dear and labour cheap, finds it his interest to improve and cultivate highly, that he may reap large crops from a small quantity of ground. That the last is the true, and the first an erroneous policy, I will readily grant, but it requires time to conquer bad habits, and hardly anything short of necessity is able to accomplish it. That necessity is approaching by pretty rapid strides.

If from these communications you shall derive information or amusement, it will be but a small return for the favors I have received from you; and I shall feel happy in having had it in my power to render them. As they result from your letter of the 25th. of January, and are intended for your private satisfaction it is not my wish that they should be promulgated as coming from me. With very great esteem I am etc.[1]

[1] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. W. Rosenbach, of New York City. The autograph draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

Philadelphia, December 7, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letter of November the 18th. covering a resolution of the legislature of Virginia of November the 14th. and a memorial of Sundry citizens of that commonwealth on the subject of their property carried away by the British, contrary, as they suppose, to the stipulations of the treaty peace. A regular channel of communication with that government being now open, I shall not fail to pay due attention to this subject. I have the honor etc.[2]

*To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

Philadelphia, December 7, 1791.

Dear Sir: At the sametime that I address the letter which accompanies this to you, officially, permit me to offer my sincere congratulations on your Appointment to the Government of Virginia, and to add my best wishes for the prosperous Administration of the important Office which you now fill, as well as for your personal happiness.

An anxiety to do well, which is inseperable from high Offices, generally increases with the importance of the trust committed to our charge; and to that drawback you must lay your Account. But that you may experience as few troubles and difficulties as the nature of your situation will permit, is the sincere wish of Dear Sir etc.[3]

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[2] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[3] From a photostat of the original in the University of Chicago Library.

On December 8 Washington wrote a brief note of thanks to Elbridge Gerry: "The President and Mrs. Washington have received the pears and the curious fluted Cymbling which Mr. Gerry has been so good as to send them, and beg his acceptance of their best thanks for this mark of polite attention." This note was sold at auction in 1926.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Friday Morning [December 9, 1791.]

Dear Sir: Yesterday afternoon Colo. Hamilton was desired, as soon as the Tariff was ready, to let it be known. Enclosed is his answer. Say whether the meeting shall be tomorrow, or on Monday morning? Yours etc.[4]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 12, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: It is with great concern that I communicate to you the information received from Major General St. Clair of the misfortune which has befallen the troops under his command.[5]

Although the national loss is considerable according to the scale of the event, yet it may be repaired without great difficulty, excepting as to the brave men who have fallen on the occasion, and who are a subject of public as well as private regret.

A further communication will shortly be made of all such matters as shall be necessary to enable the Legislature to judge of the future measures which it may be proper to pursue.

To PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT

Philadelphia, December 13, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 7th. instant, and can only once more, and now for all, inform you that every matter

[4] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[5] Near Fort Recovery, in Mercer County, Ohio, on Nov. 4, 1791, and generally referred to as "St. Clair's defeat."

and thing which has relation to the Federal district, and the City within it, is committed to the Commissioners appointed agreeably to the "Act for establishing the temporary and permanent Seat of the Government of the United States" that it is from them you are to derive your powers, and the line of demarcation for your government is to be drawn by them.

You may remember, Sir, that the first official notice you had of the business in which you are now engaged, was from one of these Commissioners, namely, Mr. Carroll; and that a supposed impropriety in his acting whilst a member of Congress, occasioned a suspension, until a renewal of his Commission after his term of Service in that body, had expired.

Had it not been for this circumstance all the directions you would have receiv'd on your way to Georgetown would have been from him. All you have received since ought to have been from them.

This is the reason why I have said to you in a former letter, that the "Commissioners stand between you and the President of the United States" they being the persons from whom alone you are to receive your direction.

Were it necessary, I would again give it to you as my opinion that the Commissioners have every disposition that can be desired to listen to your suggestions, to adopt your plans, and to support your authority for carrying the latter into effect, as far as it shall appear reasonable, just and prudent to them, and consistent with the powers under which they act themselves. But having said this in more instances than one it is rather painful to reiterate it. With esteem and regard I am etc.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing letter yours of the 10th. is come to hand. As you are well acquainted with my, as well as the earnest wishes of the Commissioners, to have the work

forwarded with all the dispatch the nature of it will admit, I persuade myself that nothing will be wanting on your part or the part of Mr. Ellicot to hasten the execution.[6]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 13, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I place before you the plan of a City that has been laid out within the District of ten miles square which was fixed upon for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States.[7]

To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

Philadelphia, December 14, 1791.

Dear Sir: Unfortunate and melancholy as the event is, which has given rise to your communication of the [8] instant, I sincerely thank you for it.

Since the receipt of your letter official account of the defeat is come to hand, and is herewith enclosed.[9] As the *whole* of it went to Congress, it was thought best to expunge no part of that which should be given to the public; otherwise the throwing away of Arms, and some other things would have been with-held. With sincere regard and affection, I am etc.[7]

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[6] From the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[7] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[8] Lee's letter, in the *Washington Papers,* is dated Dec. 16, 1791.

[9] St. Clair's report of his defeat was addressed to the Secretary of War and dated Nov. 9, 1791. No copy of it is now found in the *Washington Papers.* It is printed in the *American State Papers.*

On January 31 Lear wrote to Knox, returning St. Clair's letter "which the President thinks it would be well to publish." This letter of January 31 is recorded in the "Letter Book," and a weak press copy is also in the *Washington Papers.*

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, December 14, 1791.

Dear Sir: I am very glad to find that matters, after all that has happened, stand so well between the Comrs. and Majr. L'Enfant. I am sorry, however, to hear that the work is not in a more progressive State.

Yesterday afternoon I wrote a letter, of which the enclosed is the copy to Majr. L'Enfant. and receivg. his of the 10th. added the Postscript thereto. I hope the two will have a good effect. I am etc.[10]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, December 18, 1791.

Gentlemen: It gave me much pleasure to find by a late letter of yours to Mr. Jefferson, that the dispute between Major L'Enfant and Mr. Carroll of Duddington is likely to terminate more favorably than might have been expected from the nature of it; and that you are disposed to take no further notice of his late unjustifiable proceedings.

You will perceive by the enclosed copy of a letter which I have just written to him, that I have placed it beyond a doubt (if he had any before, from an opinion that the Commissioners were appointed for one purpose, and himself for another, and that they were to act independent of each other) that his powers, and Instructions, are to flow from you.

His aim is obvious. It is to have as much scope as possible for the display of his talents, perhaps for his ambition. A copy of

[10] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

his letter of the 7th. instant herewith sent, not only evinces this, but shews the extent to which he wishes to carry it. If, however, he will bear the cirb which is put upon him by the letter; of which you have the copy (and which will admit of no misinterpretation) I submit to your consideration whether it might not be politic to give him pretty general, and ample powers for *defined* objects; until you shall discover in him a disposition to abuse them.

His pride would be gratified, and his ambition excited by such a mark of your confidence. If for want of these, or from any other cause he should take miff and leave the business, I have no scruple in declaring to *you* (though I do not want *him* to know it) that I know not where another is to be found, who could supply his place.

His conduct, in the dispute with Mr. Carroll of Duddington, I will readily acknowledge is no inducement to entrust him with extensive powers; because, after *your* interference, *his proceeding* was unwarrantable and previous to it (in the last act) it was imprudent. Having said this, I must go further and declare, that under the statement I received of this matter when I was at George-town (not only from Majr. L'Enfant but from another on whom I could depend) I think Mr. Carroll of Duddington is equally to blame. and without entering far into the detail of the dispute between these two Gentlemn., the following will comprise, and in my opinion, be a solution of the motives, which influenced the former. The work of Majr. L'Enfant (wch. is greatly admired) will shew that he had many objects to attend to and to combine; not on paper merely, but to make them corrispond with the *actual* circumstances of the ground. This required more time than the patience, perhaps the convenience of Mr. Carroll would admit; and there-

fore, notwithstanding the assurances of the other that he was using all the despatch in his power to ascertain the principal Streets and objects, and, that he Mr. Carroll should not suffer by the delay, the latter proceeded, after waiting a while, to the completion of his buildings.

This excited resentment in L'Enfant; and, more than probably gave birth to expressions which begat mutual warmth; and conceiving (without adverting to, or perhaps even knowing the formalities which are required by our laws) that by the Deeds of cession, houses, and every other impediment which might happen to stand in the way, was to be removed (paying the value thereof), he took the determination to demolish, without further ceremony, the house of Mr. Carroll; and having proceeded to the execution, his pride (however false) would not permit him to recede. This, in my opinion, is a true state of the case; to which, a reserve, and an unwillingness to answer enquiries respecting his plan, has given disgust. But how far a compliance on his part, in an unfinished stage of the wk. would have been consistent with his duty, is a matter worthy of consideration. If this reserve &ca. proceeded from self importance and the insolence of Office, the motives were unworthy. If from a conviction of the impropriety of developing his designs to the public before they were matured, and approved; they were good; at any rate not condemnable.[11]

These sentiments being the result of my reflections upon this subject, I communicate them for your private information; and for that reason request that this letter may not be mixed with other papers that respect your public transactions. An imprudent use made of them, might sow the seeds of discord, whilst

[11] One of the reasons for L'Enfant's reserve and delay in publishing his mature plan was his conviction that the Commissioners were willing to favor the real estate speculators more than they were willing to cooperate in establishing his plan.

reconciliation ought to be promoted, and discontents of every sort ought to be buried, by all those who have any concern, or interest in the business. With much esteem etc.[12]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE[13]

Sunday, December 18, 1791.

The P—— requests that Mr J—— would give the letter and statement herewith sent from the S—y of War a perusal, and return it to him in the course of the day, with his opinion as to the propriety of the manner of making the communication to Congress; and whether it ought not, at any rate, to be introduced in some such way as this (if it is to pass through him to Congress) "Pursuant to directions I submit" &ca. Or, (if it is to go immediately from the War department to that body) "I lay before Congress by direction of the P—— of the U. S. the following statement." &ca.[14]

To JEAN BAPTISTE TERNANT

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 22, 1791.

Dear Sir: I accept, with great pleasure, the new and elegant print of the King of the French, which you have been so obliging as to send to me this morning as a mark of your attachment to my person. You will believe me, Sir, when I assure you, that I have a grateful and lively sense of the personal respect and friendship expressed in your favor which accompanied the Print, and that I am etc.[15]

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[12] From a press copy in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of *Congress*.

[13] In the "Letter Book" this is addressed to "Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Hamilton."

[14] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. (See Washington's message to the Senate and House of Representatives Jan. 11, 1792, *post*.)

[15] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

December 25, 1791.

The P—— returns Mr. Muters letter,[16] and gives Mr. J.—— an opportunity of reading one from Judge Innes,[17] on the same subject. The latter, commences his operations *from* the point, *to* which we have not *yet* been able to get; namely, established Posts in the Indian Country, the primary object of the Campaign, after the accomplishment of which, every thing else would be easy.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

December 25, 1791.

My dear Sir: You will find by the enclosed that our troubles in the Federal City are not yet at an end. I pray you to give the letters a consideration and inform me of the result, tomorrow, or next day.[18] Yours etc.[19]

To WILLIAM JACKSON

Philadelphia, December 26, 1791.

Dear Sir: At the same time that I acknowledge the receipt of your letter, notifying me of your intention to enter upon a professional pursuit, and, during the ensuing term, propose yourself for admittance as a practitioner of law in the Supreme Court of the State of Pennsylvania, I beg you to be persuaded,

[16] George Muter. His letter of Nov. 17, 1791, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[17] Neither the Innes letter nor a copy of it is now found in the *Washington Papers* or *Jefferson Papers*.

[18] No further record of this matter has been discovered in either the *Washington Papers* or *Jefferson Papers*.

[19] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

that my best wishes will accompany you in that or in any other walk into which your interest or inclination may lead you.

That your determination is the result of the best view you have of your circumstances and expectations, I take for granted, and therefore shall say nothing which might embarrass the decision; but declare to you that your deportment so far as it has come under my observation, has been regulated by principles of integrity and honor, and that the duties of your station have been executed with abilities, and I embrace the occasion your address has afforded me to thank you for all your attentions, and for the Services which you have rendered me since you have been a member of my family.

Let your departure from it be made perfectly convenient to yourself and believe me to be with sincere esteem and regard, Dear Sir your etc.[20]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 26, 1791.

Dear Sir: The enclosed is a private letter from Colo. Nicholas[21] (an influential character in Kentucky) to the Attorney General. He put it into my hands to read; I, without having asked his permission, send it to you for the same purpose, of course the communication is confidential. My reason for sending it to you is, to shew you the uniform sentiment of that district; and how little confidence the people of it will place in the plan which is proposed by your statement; of consequence how little support in pursuance of it, is to be expected from thence.

[20] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*
[21] George Nicholas.

Might it not be advisable if for the purpose of comparison only, to draw up, and estimate the expence of a plan upon their principles; making the regular force, however (no Cavalry) to consist of about 1200 Men exclusive of Artillery; for the purposes of a garrison at the Maume village, and the communication therewith.

It may be asked how are these 1200 men to be covered whilst they are establishing this Post? By what means are the great deposits to be made in them, from which the Militia are to be supplied? By what authority can Militia be organized in the manner proposed? What certainty is there of obtaining them, agreeably to the suggestions of the letters? Would they remain in service a sufficient time to answer any valuable purpose? What effect would it have upon the Agriculture of that Country if they did? &ca. &ca.

These difficulties unquestionably would be great; and the plan ultimately hazardous. But opposed to them, the Western people would be endulged; Many Members of Congress gratified; The operations might commence as soon as the Season and the herbage would admit (which are considerations of great importance); Many difficulties with respect to appointments avoided; And, if the War can be terminated by such operations the expence would be much less. I am etc.

PS. Return the enclosed to me early in the morng.

[MS. H. S.]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, December 27, 1791.

Gentlemen: When I proposed the alternatives contained in my letter of the 28th. Ulto. to Mr. Carroll of Duddington it was done on the ground of accommodation; and under full persuation that, as the house of that Gentleman had been begun

before the land was ceded, and had progressed between that and the ultimate decision on the lines of the Street which embraces part of it, no doubt would arise with respect to the legality of reinstating the house in the order it was found when the demolition commenced. Much less did I imagine that there could be any doubt of the expediency of the measure, as the obvious design of it was to heal differences which were pregnant with mischief and could produce no good effect as the case was a singular one and could not be drawn into precedent.

But, as many of the former Proprietors of the land dispute the right of applying any of the monies which have arisen, or may arise from the Sale of the lots to this purpose, I shall take the opinion of the Attorney General of the U. States upon this case; and for his information do require a copy of the transfer from Mr. Carroll of Duddington to the Trustees.

It may be necessary also to ascertain, with precision, at what exact period the lines of the Street which interfere with Mr. Carrolls house were finally run and resolved on, and notice thereof given to Mr. Carroll of D. with other facts pro. and con, that the Attorney General may be enabled to give his opinion upon clear ground.

I find by a letter which I have just received from Majr. L'Enfant that the house of Notley Young Esqr. has (contrary to expectation) fallen into a principal Street. But I hope the Major does mean to proceed to the demolition of this also unless he is properly authorized and instructed.

It gives me pleasure to find by your letter of the 21st. that you are so well advanced in your Contracts. With great esteem etc.

PS. I pray you to inform Mr. Carroll of Dudn. that until the above opinion is obtained I can say nothing to him with decision, in answer to his letter of the 21st. Instant.[22]

[22] From the *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

To JOHN VAUGHAN

December 27, 1791.

Dear Sir: I thank you for having given me the perusal of the letter herewith returned. Lamentable! to see such a spirit of revolt among the Blacks.[23] Where it will stop, is difficult to say. Your sincerely[24]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Tuesday Afternoon, December 27, 1791.

My dear Sir: I have just received, and scarcely had time to read the enclosed. I [wan]t to see you, and the heads of the other Departments tomorrow morning at nine Oclock on business of the War Department. Yrs. etc.[25]

To MARY BUTLER[26]

Philadelphia, January 6, 1792.

Madam: I received duly your letter of the 22nd. ultimo.

Permit me to assure you that, in a public view, I consider the recent misfortune greatly enhanced by the loss of the truly gallant General Butler; and that I deeply participate in the grief which affects you on this distressing event.

A small detachment of troops had been ordered to be stationed at Pittsburg, previously to the receipt of your letter;

[23] In San Domingo.

[24] From a copy of the text kindly furnished by Mrs. Louis C. Madeira, of Philadelphia, Pa.

[25] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On December 27 Washington authorized Thomas Harwood, treasurer of the Western Shore of Maryland, to pay to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia $24,000, being "part of the Seventy-two thousand dollars given by the Assembly of Maryland, towards the defraying the expences of the public Buildings within the said District." This authorization is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[26] Widow of Gen. Richard Butler, who was killed at "St. Clair's defeat."

these since he [*sic*] reinforced by a more considerable detachment now on their march to that place.

I sincerely hope, that you will render the present pressure of your afflicted experience all the powerful consolations of Religion and Philosophy. I am etc.[27]

To BROWN & FRANCIS

Philadelphia, January 7, 1792.

Gentlemen: I have received your letter of the 13th. of December, requesting that I would furnish Mr. John Francis with such letters to Amsterdam, or other parts of Europe, as might enable him to obtain a loan of money for your house, to the amount of about 100,000 dollars, to make it convenient for you to build and fit out such vessels as you mention for the East India trade.

I have taken this matter, Gentlemen, into serious consideration, and am sorry to inform you that with every disposition and wish to promote the commercial interests of our Country, and to countenance the laudable undertakings of its enterprizing citizens, yet I can not think it wou'd be proper for me, situated as I am, to comply with your request. In my public capacity you will readily see that such a thing could not be done; and abroad, it would be almost impossible to separate my private from my official character, in a case of this kind. Moreover, should I, from the disposition I might have to oblige you, open this door, it is easy to foresee the many applications of a similar nature which it wou'd produce, and which I should find impracticable to avoid. I am therefore persuaded, Gentlemen, you will do that justice to my motives for declining

[27] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

this matter which they really merit, and will in no wise impute it to the want of inclination to promote your interest, or through you, the interest of commerce. With great regard etc.[28]

*To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, January 8, 1792.

Dear Bushrod: I have long suspected, but, such has been my situation for some years back, that I have not been able to ascertain the fact, that a tract of about 1200 acres wch. I hold on four mile-run near Alexandria has had the Wood thereon dealt pretty freely with by unauthorised persons in its vicinity. The enclosed from Mr. Whiting gives information of a particular act. He is directed in a letter of this date, to wait upon Colo. Little; and with such proofs of the trespass as he can obtain, to call upon you therewith. If they shall appear to you indubitable, I am resolved, as an example, to punish the agressors; and pray you to issue a process against them, and to prosecute the same in the name of George Auge. Washington, as my Attorney, who I think has been announced as such in the Gazettes of Alexandria and Richmond; and, I presume, has a power from me to that effect.

Lest any misconception of Whiting's should lead me, or you into an error, I beg you will, when an opportunity shall present itself, inquire of Colo. Little whether the Hoop poles were, incontestibly, taken from my land; who the persons are that did it; who to prove it; and whether there can be any demur to the propriety (legality I mean) of bringing the Suit in the name of G: A: Washington as my Attorney, not being willing to have my own name called in Court, on this occasion.

[28] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Your Aunt joins me in best wishes, and compliments of the Season to you and Nancy, and I am etc. [H.S.P.]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 11, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you, in confidence, two Reports made to me by the Secretary for the Department of War, relatively to the present state of affairs on the Western frontiers of the United States.

In these Reports the causes of the present war with the Indians; the measures taken by the Executive in order to terminate it amicably; and the military preparations for the late Campaign, are stated and explained; and also a plan suggested of such further measures on the occasion as appear just and expedient.

I am persuaded, Gentlemen, that you will take this important subject into your immediate and serious consideration, and that the result of your deliberations will be the adoption of such wise and efficient measures as will reflect honor on our national Councils and promote the welfare of our Country.[29]

To THE SENATE

January 11, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate: In consequence of the communication from the Court of Spain, as stated in the preceding

[29] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On January 8 Washington wrote a brief note of acknowledgment to Robert Bowyer for an engraved portrait print of the Countess of Huntingdon, made from Bowyer's painting. This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

Report,[30] I nominate William Carmichael, present Charge des affaires of the United States at Madrid, and William Short, present Charge des affaires of the United States at Paris, to be Commissioners Plenipotentiary for negociating and concluding, with any person or persons who shall be duly authorized by his Catholic Majesty, a convention or treaty concerning the navigation of the River Mississippi by the Citizens of the United States, saving to the President and Senate their respective rights as to the ratification of the same.[31]

To JOSEPH WILLIAMS[32]

Philadelphia, January 14, 1792.

Sir: I take the earliest opportunity, after receiving your letter of the 11th. instant, to inform you of the President's sentiments on the subject of it.

I think I mentioned to you when I had the pleasure of seeing you in this place, that the President had, when on his tour to the southward, been prevailed upon by the strong sollicitations of Colonel Washington and several other Gentlemen of South Carolina, to promise that he would let his Spanish Jack be carried to that State for a time, if they should think proper to send for him. When I mentioned your application for one of the Jacks, the President informed me, that Colo. Washington had sent for the Spanish Jack, and that he was now on his way to South Carolina, and added, that as one of the Jacks was already gone, he cou'd not by any means think of parting with the Knight of Malta for a season, as his dependance for Mules must

[30] The text of the report of the Secretary of State to the President, Dec. 22, 1791, that Spain was ready to enter into a treaty for the free navigation of the Mississippi River, precedes this message in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

[31] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[32] Of Connecticut.

now be placed on him; and that, as the young Jack had never yet been tried, it would be out of the question to rely upon him for the Services which might be expected, I therefore did not incline to let either of them go from Mount Vernon, at least not for the ensuing season. The President more over observed, that he had no inclination to part with either of his Jacks, unless a *very considerable price* should be offered: conceiving that the benefits which might result from them to the Country at large could be diffused, without his dispossessing himself of their property.

Had it been convenient for the President to have let you had one of his Jacks, he would only have done it for a stipulated sum for the season, to be paid in cash, as that would have been more agreeable to him (and perhaps equally as well for you) than to have received a certain proportion of what he might bring in. I am etc.[33]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND JAMES MADISON

Friday Morning, January 14, 1792.

The P. begs that Mr. J—— and Mr. Ma——[34] would give the enclosed letters from the Commrs.[35] an attentive perusal, and the whole of that business a serious consideration before nine oclock tomorrow morning, at which hour the P—— would be glad to converse with them on the subject.[36]

[33] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[34] James Madison.

[35] Copies of the letters from the Commissioners of the District of Columbia of January 7 and 9 are filed in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[36] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sunday Morng. [January 15, 1792.]

The enclosed came to my hands yesterday afternoon. The documents respecting the dispute between Majr. L'Enfant and Dan Carroll of D. have been sent for the Attorney Genl. to form his opinion upon the case. The whole are sent for Mr. J.s perusal previous to the conversation he proposed to have with Majr. L E. The President has not read the Papers, nor is he in any hurry to do it.[37]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

United States, January 16, 1792.

Sir: As the circumstances which have engaged the U. S. in the present Indian War, may, some of them, be out of the public recollection, and others, perhaps unknown, it appears adviseable that you prepare and publish, from authentic documents, a statement of those circumstances, as well as of the measures which have been taken from time to time for the re-establishment of peace and friendship.

When the Community are called upon for considerable exertions to relieve a part which is suffering under the hand of an enemy, it is desirable to manifest that due pains have been taken by those entrusted with the administration of their affairs to avoid the evil.[38]

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[37] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[38] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

In the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress is a press copy of Jefferson's report to the President on this matter which includes this text with the exception of the words "the Community," which in Jefferson's draft is "our constituents." This press copy is dated January 25.

To THOMAS PINCKNEY

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 16, 1792.

Dear Sir: I do myself the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th. of November, and to express the satisfaction which I feel in finding you are disposed to go abroad in the public character which was suggested to you.

The Secretary of State will give you the official information of your Appointment to the Court of London; and I am pleased that the public service will allow you such time as may be necessary for you to make arrangements for your departure, and permit you to take your passage in a pleasant and safe season of the year.

To a sincere desire that your exertions for the public good may be crowned with the fullest success, permit me to add, my best wishes for the welfare and happiness of your family: and to assure you, that I am etc.[39]

*To ANTHONY WHITING

Philadelphia, January 16, 1792.

Mr. Whiting: My letter, of yesterdays date,[40] was closed, and sent to the Post Office before it occurred to me, to enquire, whether you have taken advantage of the present frost, to Store the House with Ice. Do not neglect to have it well filled, and well pounded, as it is filling. Ice, put in whilst the Weather is intensely cold, keeps better than that which is taken up in more moderate Weather, and still more so, than that, which is in a state of dissolution. But, if you have not already embraced the

[39] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[40] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

present Spell, you must take such as you can get, or you will probably get none; as it is not likely, that there will be a hard freezing Spell, after the middle of this month. I am, etc.[41]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Monday Evening [January 16, 1792.]

Dear Sir: Colo. Hamilton came so late that I could only broach the subject to him. He will breakfast with me at 8 Oclock, at which time If you can make it convenient I should be glad of your Company, after which we will talk the matter over fully. Yrs.[42]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, January 17, 1792.

Gentlemen: I have duly received your favors of January the 7th. and 9th., am sensible of the expediency of the act of authority you have found it necessary to exercise over all the persons employed in the public works under your care, and fully approve of what you did.

It has appeared, I think, that nothing less could draw their attention to a single source of authority and confine their operations to specified objects. It is certainly wise to take a view of the work to be done, the funds for carrying it on, and to employ the best instruments. Major L'enfant might be an useful one if he could be brought to reduce himself within those limits which your own responsibility obliges you to prescribe to him. At present he does not appear to be in that

[41] From the facsimile published in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, April, 1931.

[42] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. (See Washington's letter to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, Jan. 17, 1792, *post*.)

temper: perhaps when Mr. Johnson shall arrive here, he may be able to let him see that nothing will be required but what is perfectly reconcileable to reason and to a due degree of liberty on his part.

I will endeavour to procure the information you desire as to Mr. Ellicot.[43] I am etc.[44]

To THE SENATE

United States, January 18, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I lay before you the communications of a deputation from the Cherokee Nation of Indians now in this City.

And I request your advice whether an additional Article[45] shall be made to the Cherokee treaty to the following purport, to wit:

That the sum to be paid annually by the United States to the Cherokee Nation of Indians, in consideration of the relinquishment of lands, as stated in the treaty made with them on the second day of July 1791, shall be one thousand five hundred dollars, instead of one thousand dollars mentioned in the said treaty.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Wednesday, January 18, 1792.

Dear Sir: The conduct of Majr. L'Enfant and those employed under him, astonishes me beyond measure! and something

[43] Joseph(?) Ellicott.

[44] In the writing of Tobias Lear, in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia,* in the Library of Congress. The draft, in the writing of Jefferson, is in the *District of Columbia Letters and Papers,* and a press copy of the draft is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[45] The Senate agreeing to this additional article, Lear, on January 20, informed the Secretary of War thereof, and added. "The President wishes to see the Secy before he communicates this matter either to the Cherokees or to the Interpreter." Lear's draft is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

more than even appears, must be meant by them! When you are at leisure I should be glad to have a further conversation with you on this subject. Yrs. etc.[46]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Sunday Morning, January 22, 1792.

My dear Sir: Upon reflection, I think it best that no mention should be made of the probability that the characters we run over yesterday[47] wll be nominated as General Officers (in case the Bill shall pass), and, if you have disclosed the matter to Mr. M——[48] or any one else, that secresy may be enjoined as to the *Men,* not the numr.

In the embryo state of this business it might (especially as it respects the *first* in command) and more than probably wd., excite jealousy and discontent; and possibly opposition from quarters that, at present, give it support. In truth, there are so many combinations necessary, and so many circumstances to be attended to, that it will be better, I conceive, to hear the opinion of others than to disclose our own, until the Bill shall pass and the hour for it is come. Yours sincerely [MS. H. S.]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 23, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and House of Representatives: Having received a letter from the Governor of Virginia, enclosing a Resolution of the General Assembly of that State, and a report of a Committee of the House of Delegates respecting certain lands located by the Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia

[46] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[47] See Opinion of the General Officers, Mar. 9, 1792, *post.*
[48] James Madison.

line, under the laws of that State, and since ceded to the Chickasaw Indians, I lay the same before you, together with a Report of the Secretary of State on this subject.[49]

To JAMES WILSON

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 23, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your goodness will, I am persuaded, excuse my not giving an earlier consideration to the subject which you presented to my view in your letter of the 31st. ultimo. A variety of occurrences, some of them not very pleasing, have happened since that period to absorb my attention.

My opinion with respect to the advantages, which would result from such a digest of Laws as was suggested by you, is the same now it was at the time we conversed on the expediency of drawing a line between the powers of the General and State governments, with a view to avoid those evils which otherwise might result from a contention. But from the best consideration my leisure has enabled me to bestow on the subject, I question much whether the time is yet arrived, the necessity so generally apparent, or the temper of Congress so well framed for these things, as to render such a proposition acceptable. And I doubt still more, whether at any time its coming from the executive would be the most auspicious mode of bringing it forward; as it might be construed into an implication of want of discernment in that body to foresee the utility of, or of abilities to execute or to direct a measure of so much importance. I am &c.[49]

[49] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Jefferson's draft of this report is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress under date of January 21. A copy is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers* under date of January 22.

To OLIVER EVANS

Philadelphia, January 25, 1792.

Sir: The President presuming from your general acquaintance with Mills and Millers, that you will be able to give him the best information of the annual sum for which he can obtain a *first rate* Miller, that is, one capable of taking charge of an merchant mill, for his mill in Virginia, in addition to the perquisites which he allows to his present miller, and which will be here stated, has directed me to write to you for that purpose.

The present miller has provided for him a good and convenient dwelling house, within a few yards of the mill, with a Garden adjoining, sufficiently large, to raise such vegetables and garden roots as are necessary for his family, and other accommodations suited to such a dwelling, he is furnished with a Cow and keeping for the same, he receives 5.00 wt. of Pork per annum, is permitted to keep as many dunghill fowls as he may have occasion for in his family (but is not allowed to raise any for sale), and has his wood found him and brought to his door. There is moreover a smart young negro man who acts as an Assistant in the mill, in which business he has been employed for several years and of course may be calculated upon as understanding the common and ordinary business of a mill. The present miller by his agreement (which would also be expected from any other) is to superintend a Cooper's shop, which is within a few rods of the mill, where two negro men and a boy are kept at work, and to work at the business himself when he is not actually engaged in the mill. he is likewise to do any small repairs to the mill which may be necessary such as putting in cogs &c. and such things as do not require the aid of a professed Mill-wright. The duties at this mill are far from

being heavy; for from the month of April to the month of November there is scarcely water enough to grind for the President's own people, and at other times there is not always work enough to keep her employed. But a miller who may be engaged must not calculate from these circumstances, upon being *idle* any part of his time; for it is the Presidents intention, if practicable, to turn such streams into his mill-Race, as will keep her going at all times, and if that should not be done, the Coopers business will give employment to an industrious man. As to the situation of the mill &c. your brother, who was there last fall, can give the best information.

Upon this view of the matter, the President wishes you to let him know for what annual sum, in addition to the before mentioned perquisites, he could be able to obtain such a miller as is before mentioned: and likewise to inform him of the wages and perquisites (if any) that are given to such a person at the Brandy Wine and other noted Mills.

The President will be thankful for this information as soon as it can be obtained, in order that he may be able therefrom to make arrangements with respect to his mill immediately. If you know of any complete miller that can be obtained about the last of May next, you will be so good as to let the President know his name, abode, and other qualities; the first of June being the day when the year for which his miller is engaged, expires, he must determine three months before that time whether he shall engage him for another year, or get a new one. A married man with a small family would be preferred to a single one, as his inducements to be absent would be less.[50]

[50] This letter is signed "T. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

United States, January 26, 1792.

Sir: You will receive herewith a copy of a Resolution[51] of the House of Representatives, that has been just now delivered to me by a Committee; and I desire you will prepare and lay before the House the statement therein requested.

As communications of a similar nature have taken place between the Executive of the General Government and the Governor of Virginia, it may be proper to lay these also before the House of Representatives, and I request you will have them prepared and communicated accordingly as soon as the business of your department will admit of it.[52]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

January 28, 1792.

My dear Sir: Enclosed is the rough draught of a letter to G. M.[53] I pray you to examine it, and alter any word, or sentence you may think too strong; or the whole of it, retaining my object; from which I shall make a fair copy, and then take a press one;[54] be not scrupulous therefore in making the alterations you judge necessary.[55] In the course of tomorrow I will send you the letter to be made up with your dispatches. Yrs. etc.[56]

[51] That of January 25, which requested the President to lay before the House copies of the correspondence between the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Secretary of War, relative to raising troops within and under the direction of that State.

[52] The signed draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

[53] Gouverneur Morris.

[54] This press copy is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[55] Jefferson's reply (January 28) returned the draft "Having freely used the liberty he gave him in softening some expressions lest they should be too much felt by Mr. Morris. The changes are made with a pencil only, and can therefore be easily restored where disapproved."

[56] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 28, 1792.

My dear Sir:[57] Your favor of the 30th of September came duly to hand, and I thank you for the important information contained in it.

The official communications from the Secretary of State, accompanying this letter, will convey to you the evidence of my *nomination,* and *appointment* of you to Minister Plenipotentiary for the United States at the Court of France; and my assurance, that both were made with *all my heart,* will, I am persuaded, satisfy you as to that fact. I wish I could add that the *advice* and *consent* flowed from a similar source. Candour forbids it, and friendship requires, that I should assign the causes, as far as they have come to my knowledge.

Whilst your abilities, knowledge in the affairs of this Country, and disposition to serve it, were adduced and asserted on one hand; you were charged on the other hand, with levity and imprudence of conversation and conduct. It was urged that your habits[58] of expression indicated a *hauteur* disgusting to those, who happen to differ from you in sentiment;[59] and among a people, who study civility and politeness more than any other nation, it must be displeasing; that in France you were considered as a favorer of Aristocracy, and unfriendly to its Revolution (I suppose they meant constitution). That under this impression, you could not be an acceptable public character, of consequence would not be able, however willing,

[57] Jefferson's copy, in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress, has "Dear Sir."
[58] Jefferson's copy has "mode."
[59] Jefferson's copy has "opinion."

to promote the interest of this Country in an essential degree.[60] That in England you indiscreetly communicated the purport of your Mission in the first instance, to the Minister of France, at that Court, who availing himself in the same moment of the occasion, gave it the appearance of a movement through his Court. This, and other circumstances of a similar nature, added to a close intercourse with the opposition Members, occasioned distrust, and gave displeasure to the Ministry; which was the cause, it is said, of that reserve which you experienced in negotiating the business which had been intrusted to you.

But not to go further into detail, I will place the ideas of your political adversaries, in the light which their arguments have presented them to me: vizt. That the promptitude, with which your lively and brilliant imagination is displayed, allows too little time for deliberation and[61] correction; and is the primary cause of those sallies, which too often offend, and of that ridicule[62] of characters, which begets enmity not easy to be forgotten, but which might easily be avoided, if it was under the control of more caution and prudence. In a word, that it is indispensably necessary, that more circumspection should be observed by our representatives abroad, than they conceive you are inclined to adopt.

In this statement you have the pros and cons; by reciting them, I give you a proof of my friendship if I give none of my policy or judgment. I do it on the presumption, that a mind conscious of its own rectitude fears not what is said of it, but will bid

[60] Jefferson's copy omits "in an essential degree."
[61] Jefferson's copy has "or."
[62] Jefferson's copy had "indiscret treatmt. of characters, wch but too freqly. results from ye enmity produced by it, and wch. mt. be avoidd. if they were under ye guidance of more caution and prudence, and it is indispensably necessary more reserve and caution shd be observd. by our representatives abroad yn they conceive you are possd of."

defiance to and despise shafts that are not barbed with accusations against honor or integrity.[63] And because I have the fullest confidence (supposing the allegations to be founded in whole or part) that you would find no difficulty, being apprized of the exceptionable light in which they are viewed, and considering yourself as the representative of this Country, to effect a change, and thereby silence, in the most unequivocal and satisfactory manner, your political opponents.

Of my good opinion, and of my friendship and regard, you may be assured, and that I am etc.[64]

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Philadelphia, January 31, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your letter of this date requesting to be informed whether you understood the President rightly upon the following points respecting the demolition Mr. Carroll's house.

Question 1st. Whether payment could be ordered to Carroll for more of his House than was run up, when he executed his agreement? Answer, upon this point the Attorney General's opinion is desired.

Question 2d. Can a written opposition to a greater payment being made, be seen by the Attorney General?

Answer, said opposition is enclosed in a letter from the Commissioners of the 21st. of december, and herewith transmitted.

Question 3d. Is not the President willing *now* to pay for the whole of the destruction if he can use the means?

Answer. The President's alternative to Mr. Carroll, before he knew this destruction was commenced shews his ideas on

[63] Jefferson's copy has "of it."
[64] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

this point, and he observes that he still adheres to it, unless a legal opposition arises to it from an agreement with Mr. Carroll.[65]

To HENRY DORSEY GOUGH[66]

Philadelphia, February 4, 1792.

Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your polite letter of the 1st. instant, and to inform you that the very fine mutton which you have had the goodness to send me has come to hand in the best order.

While I beg your acceptance of my thanks for this mark of polite attention, permit me to express the satisfaction which I feel in learning from your letter the success you have met with in your laudable attempts to improve the breed of our Sheep, by introducing among them the broad-tail'd persian breed. I have ever been satisfied in my own mind, that by a proper attention to our Sheep (particularly in Maryland and Virginia, where the climate and other circumstances seem to be peculiarly favourable to the object) they might be made not only a most profitable subject to the farmer, but rendered highly important in a public view, by encouraging extensive establishments of woolen manufactories from the abundance of wool which they could furnish.

During the time of my residing at home, between the close of the war and the entrance on my present office, I had paid much attention to my Sheep, and was proud in being able to produce perhaps the largest mutton and the greatest quantity of Wool from my Sheep that could be then produced. But I was not satisfied with this, and contemplated further improvements both in the flesh and wool by the introduction of other

[65] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[66] Of Baltimore County, Md.

breeds, which I should by this time have carried into effect, had I been permitted to pursue my favorite occupation. I am however much pleased to find that some Gentlemen seem to view this matter in the light which it deserves, and exert themselves in promoting it; and if I cannot give my aid by a personal attention to the object, those who do, will always have my best wishes for their success. I am etc.[67]

To OLIVER EVANS

Philadelphia, February 5, 1792.

Sir: By the post of Friday I received your letter of the 28th. ultimo, and thank you, in behalf of the President, for the information you have been so good as to obtain and communicate respecting a miller.

The President has no *wish* to part with his present miller, if he should incline to continue where he is upon *reasonable* terms; but as the work done at the mill will not allow of extravagant wages, the President is desirous of ascertaining the annual sum for which he can obtain a *first rate* miller (who at the same time shall be a man of strict integrity, of sobriety and industry) in addition to the perquisities mentioned in my former letter. When this is known, if his present miller will not continue for the same sum, he shall have no hesitation in parting with him. I have, therefore, Sir, to beg the further favor of you to learn from the Mr. Robinson mentioned in

[67] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On February 4 Lear wrote to the Attorney General, by the President's command, asking an opinion on the legality of the appointment and continuance of Charles William Frederick Dumas, United States Agent at the Hague during the Revolutionary War and after. A press copy of Jefferson's opinion on the retention of Dumas (February 4) is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. The Attorney General's opinion is not now found in the *Washington Papers*. On February 15 Lear returned all the papers in the case to Jefferson. Lear's note is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

your letter, or any other person possessing the necessary qualifications, the *annual sum* for which he would engage to take charge of, and conduct the Presidents Mill, in addition to the perquisites before mentioned to you, and let me receive information thereof as soon as you can. After this information is received, the President will be able to determine whether he shall continue his present miller, or take another, as soon as he can write to Mount Vernon, and receive an answer from thence.

It may be necessary to observe here, that the Miller who has charge of the Presidents Mill, must be a man of strict integrity, and one in whom a confidence can be placed to conduct the business of the mill, without being constantly looked after; for so numerous are the avocations of whoever superintends the President's affairs, during his absence from home, that they can only pay a *general* attention to the Mill, and of course much must depend, in that case, on the honesty of the Miller, as well as on his ability to manage the business committed to his charge. A Miller, tho' engaged for the year, may receive his wages as they become due, by the month or quarter, as he pleases.

You observe in your letter, that "Gentlement from the southward offer higher wages than are given at the Brandy-Wine Mills, and that there are frequent instances where those who go for the sake of the wages, return for their health." I am happy in being able to inform you, in reply to this, reasoning from the past, a person need be under no apprehension of unhealthiness at the President's Mill, for since the time of its being built in the year 1770, to the present day, there have been but two Miller's engaged there, and they have both, with their families, enjoyed as much health as any persons or families in any place whatever. The first Miller, whose name was Roberts, was employed there from the building of the Mill, 'till the year

1785. He was perhaps, one of the *first* millers in this Country; but being incorrigibly addicted to drunkeness, the President was obliged to part with him on that account, after having endured with him, in consideration of his extraordy. ability as a Miller, 'til his conduct, from drunkeness, was no longer tolerable. After his dismission, the man who is now there was engaged, and, as I observed before, neither of them suffered in themselves or families any more inconvenience from sickness, than what is incident to a family in any situation whatever. I am etc.[68]

To HERCULES MULLIGAN

Philadelphia, February 6, 1792.

Sir: The President is desirous of getting some black mole skin, like that of which you made him a pair of breeches when he was in New York, and not being able to procure any in this City he has directed me to request, if there is any in N. York, that you will be so good as to get and send to him as much as will make three pair breeches; and the amount of which shall be remitted to you as soon as it gets to him, and the price is known. I am etc.[68]

To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Philadelphia, February 7, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 4th. of December should have received an earlier acknowledgment, if the pressure of public business would have sooner permitted me to make the necessary enquiries relative to the object of it. And I was induced to delay the matter until I found myself at leisure, from an idea

[68] This letter is signed "T. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

that no inconvenience could result to you or your Son, from a short postponement, as your letter mentions his being now in London, and not expected in this Country 'till March.

Captn. Truxton,[69] with whom you express a wish that your son might sail, is now in London, and Mr. Morris informs me that he will sail from thence to India, and may be expected to return here in about 18 months, and is good enough to add, that if your Son shou'd be in the Country at that time, and incline to go an India Voyage with Captn. Truxton, he would provide a birth for him; but he must not expect the place of Chief mate in his first voyage to India; for great dependance being placed on the Chief mate of those Ships in respect to Seamanship and Experience, a man who has been to India and proved himself capable of the birth, is generally obtain to fill it.

If your Son should not wish to delay a voyage to India 'till the return of Captn. Truxton, there will be vessels sailing from this place next Summer on board of one of which he may undoubtedly get the birth of Second or third mate; but as his sole object in such a voyage will be to gain knowledge and experience in his profession, it may be proper for him to be well ascertained of the character and talents of the Captain, on this line, under whom he may sail.

It will give me pleasure to promote the enterprising views of your Son in this way, by any information I can obtain and communicate respecting it. I will still continue my enquiries, and if I can, at the Season when the Indianmen are fitting out, hear of a suitable birth for him, I shall not fail to let you know it; for I am pleased to find that there are some young Gentlemen of respectability, stepping forward with ardor in a profession, where they may render service to their Country at a future period. With great esteem I am etc.[70]

[69] Capt. Thomas Truxtun (Truxton).
[70] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

[February 7, 1792.]

The enclosed came to my hand yesterday evening. I have heard nothing more of Mr. Johnson.[71] I wish the business to which these letters relate,[72] was brought to an issue, an agreeable one is not, I perceive to be expected.[73]

To OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS

Philadelphia, February 7, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have received a letter from General Moultrie of South Carolina, dated December 29th. informing that he had sent to me, by the Baltimore Packet (which was to sail next day) the following plants, to wit: 2 boxes with sweet shrubs; 2 boxes with Italian Myrtle; one box with two apopynaxes; one box with two olianders, and two boxes with the Palmitto Royal.

Now, my dear Sir, as I have received no account of the arrival of these plants at Baltimore, I am apprehensive that some accident has befallen them, and must beg the favor of you to make an enquiry respecting them, and if they have reached Baltimore, to let me know what state they are in; and should they have escaped destruction from the severity of the weather, I must add to the trouble of the enquiry, a request, that, if the plants are found in such preservation as to be worth sending to Mount Vernon, you would have the goodness to cause them to be sent there by the first Vessel which may be bound that way. And, in order to prevent a double transportation and perhaps a delay which may be ruinous to them, it would be a

[71] Thomas Johnson.
[72] The business was the difficulty with L'Enfant.
[73] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

pleasing thing to me if the Captain of the Vessel that may carry them to the Potomack, would land them at Mount Vernon in his way up the River.

The amount of freight from Charleston, and other charges upon these plants you will be so obliging as to ascertain and let me know, that it may be paid.

With great regard etc.[74] [MD. H. S.]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 8, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: An Article of expence having occurred in the department of foreign affairs for which no provision has been made by law,[75] I lay before you a letter from the Secretary of State explaining the same, in order that you may do thereon what you shall find to be right.[76]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Thursday Morng. [February 9, 1792.]

The P—— requests that Mr. J—— would give the enclosed letter and papers a reading between this and dinner; and come an hour before it, that he may have an opportunity of conversing with him on the subject of them.

Mr. Walker[77] of George Town is in this City; from him, if Mr. J—— could contrive to get him to his house, he might

[74] In the writing of Tobias Lear.

[75] The expense had been incurred in the relief of a number of American seamen who had been impressed by the British Navy.

[76] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[77] George Walker.

learn the sentiments of the people of that place, Carrolsburg &ca., with respect to the dispute between the Comrs. and Majr. L', and generally of the State of the business.[78]

To WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Philadelphia, February 10, 1792.

Sir: I was sorry to learn from your letter of the 7th. instant, that you propose to resign the Office which you hold under the United States.[79]

Presuming that this determination is the result of a due reflection upon the subject, and a conviction that the measure is for your best interest, I acquiesce in it, although I regret the loss of your services to the public. And, while I express my approbation of your conduct in the Offices which you have held under the U. States, so far as it has come to my knowledge, permit me to add my best wishes for your future happiness and prosperity.

Your proposal of continuing to discharge the duties of your office until the 1st. of March, or until another person shall be appointed thereto, will allow time for the selection of a proper character, which, as soon as determined on, will be duly notified to you by the Secretary of the Treasury.

With sincere regard etc.[80]

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[78] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[79] Supervisor of the State of New York.

[80] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

On February 10 Lear wrote to the Attorney General: "The President directs me to offer you his sincere condolence for the loss of your sister; to which permit me, my dear Sir, to add mine. The President thinks it wou'd be best for you to take an opportunity of conversing with Mr. Ellicot, respecting Mr. Carroll's house, before you send him your opinion on the subject, as he wishes every information to be had that can be obtained respecting it. The President observes that it will be inconvenient for him to receive your opinion on Mr. Dumas's case on Monday or today." A press copy of this note is in the *Washington Papers.* It is also recorded in the "Letter Book."

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Saturday, February 11, 1792.

Dear Sir: If you and Mr. Madison could make it convenient to take a family dinner with me today; or, if engagements prevent this, wd. come, at any hour in the afternoon most convenient to yourselves we would converse fully, and try to fix on some plan for carrying the affairs of the Federal district into execution.

Under present appearances it is difficult, but it is nevertheless necessary to resolve on something. Yrs. etc.[81]

To JAMES PEMBERTON

Philadelphia, February 11, 1792.

The President of the United States commands T. Lear to return the enclosed paper which was submitted to the consideration of the President last evening, containing the sentiments proposed to be delivered, in writing, by the Quakers to the deputation from the cherokee nation of Indians now in this City, and to inform, that the President, upon a due consideration of the subject, does not see any impropriety in the enclosed Speech being delivered to the Cherokees, as it contains the same friendly sentiments, with which he has himself endeavoured to impress these people; and it does not appear to be a matter that can be

[81] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On February 11 Lear wrote the following note to Jefferson: "T. Lear has the honor to inform Mr. Jefferson that the President considers the 22d day of this month as his birthday, having been born on the 11th old Style.

"T. Lear further adds, that the President does not expect to see any Company today on the above occasion; and moreover, that the President's birthday was last year noticed in this City on the 22d, and T. L. has understood, in an indirect manner, from some of the Gentlemen of the City that the same day would be observed this year." Lear's note is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

drawn into precedent on any future occasion. Neither has the President any objection to these Indians being furnished, by the Quakers, with such small presents as were mentioned to him last evening.[82]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Wednesday, February 15, 1792.

Dear Sir: Before I give any decided opinion upon the letter you have written to Majr. L'Enfant,[83] or on the alterations proposed for the engraved plan, I wish to converse with you on several matters which relate to this business. This may be, if nothing on your part renders it inconvenient, immediately after 8 Oclock to morrow; at wch. hour I breakfast, and at which if agreeable to yourself I should be glad to see you.

In the meanwhile, I send for your perusal an address from Mr. Welsh, which, (though dated yesterday) is but just received. You will recollect the communications of Mr. Walker on Saturday afternoon. From these, those of Sunday differed but little. But as he said Major L'Enfant had declin'd committing, or suffering to be committed to writing any ideas of his, forasmuch as he had given them to me *before* in a letter, I have looked these over, and send the only one I can find in which he has attempted to draw a line of demarkation between the Commissioners and himself. I also send you the *general* ideas of another person, principally on the subject of a loan, that you may, if leisure and inclination will permit give the whole a perusal before I see you. Yours etc.

[82] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[83] Probably the letter from Jefferson to L'Enfant, Feb. 22, 1792, which is in the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress. In it Jefferson asks: "Whether you will continue your services on the footing expressed in this letter."

PS. If Mr. Madison can make it convent. to come with you I should be glad to see him also. In that case, it might be well to give him a previous perusal of the enclosed papers.[84]

*To JAMES MADISON

Sunday, February 19, [1792].

If Mr. Madison could make it convenient to spare half an hour from other matters, G W would be glad to see him at 11 Oclock to day.[85]

To GOVERNOR CHARLES PINCKNEY

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 31 [–February 20,] 1792.

Dear Sir: I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 22d. of November last, with the enclosures from General Pickens and Colo. Anderson to yourself, respecting the deputation from the cherokee nation. I have likewise the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th. of the same month.

The Cherokees arrived in this City after a tedious passage from Charleston, which I believe they will consider as the most, if not the only disagreeable circumstance attending their mission. For the requests which they had to make were of a nature to be readily complied with, and they appeared not only satisfied, but highly pleased with their reception, and the manner in which their business had been done.

They have been detained here longer than was expected on their arrival, owing to the navigation of this River being totally

[84] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[85] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

obstructed, and that of New-York harbour having been so for some days past by the severity of the weather. As soon as the harbour of New-york opens, they will proceed to embark at that place for Charleston.

It is at all times very desirable, but peculiarly so at the present moment, that we should be upon terms of friendship and good understanding with those powerful tribes of Indians who border on our southern and western frontiers: and I have strong hopes that the favourable impression which this deputation have received, will not only ensure the attachment of the Cherokees to the United States; but will likewise have a beneficial influence on the Creeks, the Chickasaws, and the Choctaws, from which nations they brought belts and messages, as well as from their own. For your attention to these Indians at Charleston, and in procuring them a passage to this place, permit me to offer you my thanks, and at the same time to assure you that I am etc.

P. S. February the 20th. 1792. This letter having been written to go by the Cherokees to Charleston is the reason of its being detained 'till this. But circumstances rendering it more convenient for these people to go by land to their own nation, and their own wishes according therewith, they sat out on Saturday the 18th. instt. This letter therefore goes by the Post.[86]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Wednesday, 7 Oclock AM [February 22, 1792.]

Dear Sir: The enclosed meets *my* approbation. Did Walker accord willingly, or reluctantly?

The Plan I think, ought to appear as the Work of L'Enfant. The one prepared for engraving not doing so, is, I presume,

[86] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

one cause of his dissatisfaction. If he consents to act upon the conditions proposed, and can point out any radical defects, or others to amend which will be a gratification to him, not improper in themselves, or productive of unnecessary, or too much delay, had he not better be gratified in the alterations? This, yourself and Mr. Walker can think of. The Plans of the buildings ought to come forward immediately for consideration. I think Mr. Walker said yesterday he (L'Enfant) had been shewing the different views of them to Mr. Trumbul.[87] Yrs.[88]

To OLIVER EVANS

Philadelphia, February 24, 1792.

Sir: I have favoured with your letter of the 20th. instant, and have communicated the same to the President, who observes, that the wages which Mr. Robinson demands is higher than he expected from your letter to me of the 28th. of July; in which you state the wages of a first rate miller at the Brandy Wine mills to be from £5: 10 to £6 pr. month, without any perquisites, and the duties heavy. Mr. R. demands 75 £ per year in addition to perquisities, almost sufficient to support a family. However, as I mentioned to you in my last letter, that the President did not wish to part with his present miller, if he should incline to continue on reasonable terms, and my principal object in writing to you was to know the terms upon which he could obtain a Miller, in case he should under the necessity of getting a new one, the President can not give a *decided* answer to Mr. R. until he knows the intention of his present Miller, for which purpose he has written to Virginia, and will probably receive an answer from thence towards the

[87] John Trumbull.
[88] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

last of this, or in the beginning of next month; and as soon as he hears from thence, I will give you immediate information of his determination.

The dry weather continuing till the setting in of the frost, has prevented the President's mill from giving a fair trial to your improvements, little or no work having been done there since they were erected. This puts it out of the President's power to give at present a certificate of their utility from experiment. I am etc.[89]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Friday, 2 Oclock [February 24, 1792.]

The President desires Mr. Jefferson will give the enclosed Papers an attentive perusal, and return them to him as soon as he has done it; that Colo. Hamilton may have an opportunity of doing it also. At 10 o'clock tomorrow the P—— will speak with the heads of departments upon the subject of them, and requests their attendance accordingly.[90]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Saturday afternoon, February 25, 1792.

Sir: I have given the enclosed draft of a letter to Captain Brandt[91] a careful perusal. Such additions as are made with a

[89] This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[90] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On February 24 Lear wrote to the Attorney General, transmitting a letter from Judge James Iredell, "stating two cases which have occurred in the judicial department, and which require the interference of the Legislature of the United States to remedy the inconveniences arising from them. The President wishes the Attorney General to inform him if he has heard whether or not Congress propose to take any measures this session which may remove these inconveniences." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. Iredell's letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[91] Joseph Brant.

pencil *may* be adviseable; but, after you have given them an attentive consideration, they may *stand* or *fall* as you shall think best. Yours etc.[92]

To REUBEN SLAUGHTER

Philadelphia, February 25, 1792.

Sir: I thank you for the information given me in your letter of the 21st. of November last, of your claiming 200 acres of the land within the limits of my Survey on the Great Kanhawa; as it gives me an opportunity of letting you know my fixed determination to defend my title to all that land within the lines of my patent, and to warn you in the most pointed manner not to make any settlements thereon, or to exercise any other right of proprietorship within the limits of my patent.

It may be proper to inform you, that, in the year 1769 or 1770, there was a special order of the Governor and Council of Virginia, for reserving all the lands on the Great Kanhawa to satisfy the military claims of myself and others of the first Virginia Regiment. That in 1770 I was myself on the Great Kanhawa with the Surveyor to look out the land for the military claims; and that my Patent for the tract you speak of has been in my possession for many years. I cannot therefore entertain the smallest doubt of the legality and validity of my title to every acre of land within the lines of that patent; and from a conviction of this I am resolved to defend it at all events, and to prosecute to the extremity of the law every encroachment, that may be made upon the boundaries of it. I therefore desire you will consider this letter as a solemn warning not to make any Settlement, or exercise any other right of proprietorship

[92] The contemporary copy in the *Washington Papers* is in the writing of Tobias Lear. Knox's letter to Brant is dated Feb. 25, 1792, and is printed in the *American State Papers*.

on any part of the land within the lines of my patent: assuring you that if you should, after this warning persevere in your intention of settling or otherwise encroaching upon my land, you must expect to be prosecuted as far as right and justice will admit. I am etc.[93]

To DAVID SHEPHERD

Philadelphia, February 25, 1792.

Sir: I thank you for the information which you have given me in your letter of the 30th of Decr. respecting the intention of the Tomlinsons and others to dispute my title to a tract of land called the Round Bottom.

I wish these persons, and any others who may be disposed to dispute my title to that land, to be informed in the most explicit and pointed manner, that it is my fixed determination to defend, at all events, every inch of that land which is within the lines of my patent. If, therefore, any encroachments are made thereon, the person or persons by whom they are made may depend upon being prosecuted as long as there shall be any shadow of right or justice in so doing.

I have nothing to say respecting any surveys which may be made *without* the lines of my patent; but let them beware of the consequences of coming *within* them. I am etc.[94]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

4 Oclock, February 26, 1792.

Sir: I have perused the enclosed answer[95] to your letter, to Majr. L'Enfant. Both are returned. A final decision there-

[93] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[94] In the writing of Tobias Lear. From the original in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

[95] L'Enfant's letter of February 26. It is published in *L'Enfant and Washington*, by Elizabeth S. Kite, Institute Français de Washington, Cahier III (Baltimore: 1929).

upon must be had.[96] I wish it to be taken upon the best ground, and with the best advice. Send it, I pray you, to Mr. Madison who is better acquainted with the *whole* of this matter than any other. I wish also that the Attorney General may see, and become acquainted with the circumstances (I can think of no other, at this moment to call in), and wish that all th[mutilated] of you would be with me at half after Eight o'clock tomorrow, if convenient, [if not,][97] at a later hour to be named, that I may be at home and disengaged. Yours etc.[98]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sunday Morning, February 26, 1792.

The P—— returns the enclosed Report to Mr. J—— Boundary, and the Navigation of the Missisipi are clearly defined. The propositions respecting Commerce he presumes is equally so, but having little knowledge of this subject he trusts to the guards provided by Mr. J——

The P—— has put one or two queries in the Margin of the Report *merely* for consideration.[98]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

[February 27, 1792.]

Would it be advisable to let L'Enfant alter the Plan if he will do it in a certn. given time, and provided also we retain the means if any thing unfair is intended that we may not suffr.

Ought any thing to be said in my letter to him respecting payment for his past Services.

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[96] This final decision resulted in Jefferson's letter to L'Enfant, Feb. 27, 1792, a press copy of which is in the *Jefferson Papers* and the original in the *Morgan-Digges-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress. A draft, in the writing of Alexander Hamilton, is also in the *Jefferson Papers*.

[97] Words in brackets supplied for mutilated space.

[98] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Should Mr. Ellicot be again asked in strong and explicit terms if the Plan exhibited by him is conformable to the actual state of things on the ground and agreeable to the designs of Majr. L'E.

Also whether he will undertake, and execute with all possible dispatch the laying off the Lots agreeable to the Plan. under the Authority and orders of the Comrs.[99]

*To PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT

Philadelphia, February 28, 1792.

Sir: Your final resolution being taken, I shall delay no longer to give my ideas to the Commissioners for carrying into effect the Plan for the federal City.

The continuance of your Services (as I have often assured you) would have been pleasing to me, could they have been retained on terms compatable with the Law. Every mode has been tried to accommodate your wishes on this principle, except changing the Commissioners (for Commissioners there *must* be, and under their directions the public buildings must be carried on, or the law *will be violated*) this is the opinion of the Attorney General of the U States and other competent judges. To change the Commissioners *can not be done* on ground of propriety, justice [or Policy].[1]

Many weeks have been lost since you came to Philadelphia in obtaining a Plan for engraving, notwithstanding the earnestness with which I requested it might be prepared on your first arrival. further delay in this business is inadmissable. In

[99] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress, and indorsed by him "recd. Feb. 28. or 29."

[1] At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: "nor do I believe it would avail any thing if they were. the same causes will produce like effects, and as it is to be feared you would be under the controul of no one."

like manner five months, have elapsed and are lost by the compliment which was intended to be paid you in depending *alone* upon your plans for the public buildings instead of advertising a premium to the person who should present the best (which would have included yourself equally). These are unpleasant things to the friends of the measure and are very much regretted.

I know not what kind of a certificate to give that will subserve the purpose of Mr. Roberdeau.[2] My conversations with, and letters to you, have uniformly conveyed the idea that the Commissioners stood between you and the President of the U. States; that it lay with them to draw the line of demarkation between themselves and you; and that, it was from them *alone* you were to receive your directions. A recurrence to my letters of the 2d. and 13th. of December.[3] [will show you the light in which I have considered this subject.] With sincere wishes for your happiness and prosperity, I am etc.[4]

[2]Isaac Roberdeau.

[3]At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: "Was there any alternative after the explicit declaration contained in these letters but to have proceeded agreeably to the line there drawn? or to have renounced all further connection with the Plan? Matters being placed on this footing, would it not have comported with propriety, and have been but a very moderate accomodation on your part, before you had left George town, to have made a communication of your intentions and settled some plan for the winter operations, with the Commissioners? A quoram of these gentlemen were meeting almost every week at that place, and a *full* board was summoned to attend there on the 4th. or 5th. of January but a few days after you left it. How easy then was it to have obviated the difficulties under which Mr. Roberdeau now labours, and how much smoother and better would things have gone on! Had you been on the spot and could not, or would not have satisfied the Commissioners with respect to the utility of continuing men at daily wages in so inclement a Season there is no question but that the order for their dismission would have been handed to you. As you were not there, had made no communication of your plan, and they conceived from the inclemency of the Season that an expence inadequate to the advantages was incurring they were reduced to the alternative of Submitting to what they conceived to be an evil, or issuing their order to Mr. Roberdeau to desist; the consequences of not doing it is now to be decided."

[4]From the draft in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers*. The words in brackets are in the writing of Tobias Lear.

The letter sent, in the writing of Lear, is in the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress. It varies from the draft in minor verbal details only.

To JAMES MERCER

Philadelphia, February 29, 1792.

Dear Sir: I take the earliest opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th. instant, to shew you that I have not been inattentive to the contents of it. But I must delay giving a definitive answer to your request for using my name in the Suit which you propose to institute, until the return of your Brother, Colo. John Mercer, to this City, shall enable me to learn from him whether the decree of chancery entitled him to use the names of the trustees without their express permission; which if it did, would render an express permission unnecessary in this case. Or, until I am informed of the kind of Suit, and against whom my name is to be drawn forth; and also, what steps can now be taken, so as to place this debt upon the same footing with those, which have been paid out of the aggregate fund. For however inclined I am to give every facility in my power toward the recovery of the debt which you mention; yet prudence will suggest that a permission to use my name in a suit should be granted but with great caution, and only where it may be *absolutely necessary:* as I am resolved that no voluntary act of mine shall again involve me in a business from which I have been discharged by a decree of the High Court of Chancery of the State of Virginia. I am etc.[5]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Wednesday, February 29, 1792.

Dear Sir: That General St. Clair may not think his letters (enclosed) to me, have been unattended to, or slighted, I wish such an answer as will do for publication may be prepared, con-

[5]From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The original is in the possession of Robert W. Dona, of London.

formably to the sentimts. which seemed to be entertained of the matter when the subject was before us the other day. I am etc.

PS To say neither too much, nor too little, in the answer will be a matter of some difficulty under the existing circumstances of Genl. St. Clairs case. [MS. H. S.]

*ERRORS OF GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE INDIANS

[February, 1792.]

Have not these been repaired by the subsequent treaties, and purchases from those who claimed the Soil?

Some of the tribes it is said would not attend the Treaty at Fort Harmer, because they expected a relinquishment of their right to the land wd. be demanded.

May it not rather be said, that while they could War with impunity, they were better pleased, and found it more profitable to plunder, than to hunt, especially as they were stimulated to the first by the B. Traders, and the withholding of the Western Posts from the U. States.

But, we are involved in actual War! Is it just? or, is it unjust?

Mr. H——[6] cannot believe *fully* in the latter because he is for providing, *in part,* the means for carrying it on.

Is this to be done by Offensive, or defensive operations?

Defensive ones, I say, and I speak it boldly from experience, and from the nature of things, is not only impracticable against *such an enemy,* but the expence attending it would be ruinous both to our finances and frontier settlements.

If offensive measures are to be carried on, must not troops advance into the enemy's Country? What possible objection then can there be to the establishing of Posts there, when these Posts answer the double purposes of annoyance and security?

[6] Benjamin Hawkins, Senator from North Carolina.

Cannot these Posts, if Peace should be concluded, be either demolished? or retained *merely* for the protection of our trade with these people; and to restrain settlements on the Indian lands? without which it would be no easy matter. this, experience has proved, and Mr. H—— is not to be told that the Miami Village is a considerable distance from the B—— Garrison at Detroit; what cause then for alarm.

True it is, pacific Overtures, were to have preceeded hostile measures last Campaign, and as true it is they did so. Though *all* the avenues through which they were intended could not be opened, yet enough were opened to inform the Indians of the disposition of the government towards them, and the obstacles in the others are strong evidences of the difficulties this government have to encounter.

The Kiskaskies is a circuitous, if not a dangerous rout by which to communicate with the Indians, with whom we are at War.

The Canadian French, subjects to G. B. are not to be relied upon, unless particular characters could be selected, and that is hardly to be done with certainty and precision.

The defeat of the 4th. of November[7] may be ascribed to several causes, perhaps to none, more justly than to the short enlistment of part of the force.

Mr. H——'s ideas and mine with respect to the force, the composition of the Troops, and the time for which they are to be engaged, differ very widely indeed for &ca. &ca., reasons to be assigned.

The number of hostile Indians, according to Mr. H——, is under rated. The estimate last year was 1200 when confined to the Miami and Wabash Tribes; *now* we have good reasons to believe that the Delawares, Wyendots and others were in the Action with Genl. St. Clair.

[7] Of St. Clair's expedition.

Plan of the Secretary of War having passed thro' the hands of the P—— and remaining in them (as will appear by a recurrence to dates) ten or more days, is a strong presumption of its having been considered and approved by him.

Motives of delicacy have, uniformly restrained the P—— from introducing any topick which relates to Legislative matters to members of either house of Congress, lest it should be suspected that he wished to influence the question before it.

A Committee, from either house, would, in his opinion (so far as the business related to legislative matters) have been *new,* and embarrassing. If it did not mean to be governed by the sentiments which were drawn from the P—— why ask his opinion, as the official application for, and disregard of them, could not fail to wound his feelings.

A free communication to a friend, on any matter depending, when *asked,* he would have no scruple to make.

The Sentiments of members of Senate, or their view, are unknown to the P—— and what may be the object of the Secretary of War, or others he knows not; his own are not concealed. Nor can he see more danger in raising men for 3 years than for 3 months, when with-holding their pay and subsistence will discharge them at any time, but he can see an *immense* difference between the advantages of the one over the other. They are too numerous and selfevident to need detail: a few only will suffice; Short enlistments will, nay must, have an incontroulable influence upon *all* the operations. Long enlistments enable one to take advantage of time and circumstances. In the first case, before men become acquainted with their dutys or the Service they are destined for, their term expires; and there is to be a second edition of them. In the other case they grow more valuable every month, and at half the expence of new men. In the first case too it is impossible [to] retain a man an hour

beyond the term of his engagement. In the other he is bound for three years and may be discharged in three months or three days if the Service will admit of it.

No man wishes less than the P—— to see a standg. army established; but if Congress will not Exact a *proper* Militia law (not such a milk and water think [*sic*] as I expect to see if I ever see any) Defence, and the Garrisons will always require some Troops. It has ever been my opinion that a select Militia properly trained might supercede the necessity for these but I dispair on that head.[8]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Friday Morning, March 2, 1792.

Be so good as to examine the enclosed draught of a letter to Genl. St. Clair,[9] and make such alterations (with a pencil) as you shall judge proper; as letter and answer will, it is presumed, be handed to the public.[10] The bearer will wait to bring it back to me.[11]

[8]This document is undated, but indorsed by Washington: "Communication of Sentimts. to Mr. Hawkins consequent of a lettr. of his." This letter, dated February 10, is in the *Washington Papers*. Ford prints this document immediately after Oct. 10, 1791, without, however, assigning any date to it.

[9]St. Clair's letter was dated, subsequently, Mar. 26, 1792. It is printed in the *St. Clair Papers* and is in the *Territorial Papers of the United States* (C.E. Carter edition).

[10]Jefferson's reply (March 2), as printed in the *Territorial Papers of the United States* from the original in the files of the Department of State, *Miscellaneous Letters,* stated that "the only passage about which he has any doubt is the following: 'it does not appear by any information in my possession, that your exertions were wanting to produce a different result either *in the previous preparations, or in the time of action.*' Th. J. never heard a statement of the matter from Gen St Clair himself in conversation: but he has been told by those who have, that, from his own account it appears he was so confident of not meeting an enemy, that he had not taken the proper precautions to have advice of one previous to the action, and his manner of conducting the action has been pretty much condemned. If these criticisms be just, the only question is whether the above paragraph will not be so understood as to be exposed to them? Th: J. does not pretend to judge of the fact, and perhaps the expression may not bear the meaning he apprehends." (See Washington's letter to Arthur St. Clair, Mar. 28, 1792, *post.*)

[11]From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

11 Oclock, A. M., March 4, 1792.

The enclosed came by the Post yesterday. I send it for your perusal.

Have you had any conversation with Mr. Ellicot respecting the completion of the Survey, and lots of the Federal City? If so, what was the result? He ought, if he undertakes it, to proceed to that place immediately, so as to be there at the proposed meeting of the Commissioners.

The Engravers say *eight weeks* is the *shortest* time in which the Plan can be engraved; (probably they may keep it eight months). Is not this misteriously strange! Ellicot talked of getting you to walk with him to these People. The current in *this* City sets so strongly against the Federal City, that I believe nothing that *can* be avoided will ever be accomplished in it.

Are there any good Engravers in Boston? If so, would it not be well to obtain a copy (under some other pretext) and send it there, or even to London with out any one (even Ellicot's) being appris'd of it? Yrs. etc.[12]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 5, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: Knowing the friendly interest you take in whatever may promote the happiness and prosperity of the French Nation, it is with pleasure that I lay before you the translation of a letter which I have received from His Most Christian Majesty,[13]

[12] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[13] King Louis XVI of France. His letter was dated Sept. 19, 1791.

announcing to the United States of America his acceptance of the Constitution presented to him in the name of his Nation.[14]

To THE SENATE

March 6, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate: With a view to relieve the merchants and merchandize of the United States from the extra duties to which they are or may be subjected in the Ports of Denmark, I have thought it for the interest of the United States that a Consul be appointed to reside at Copenhagen.[15] I therefore nominate Hans Rudolph Saaby, a Danish subject and Merchant of Copenhagen to be *Consul* for the United States of America for the Port of Copenhagen, and such other places within the allegiance of his Danish Majesty as shall be nearer to the said Port than the residence of any other Consul or Vice Consul of the United States within the same Allegiance.[14]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

(Confidential)

Philadelphia, March 6, 1792.

My dear sir: Your letter of the 24th. ultimo, did not reach me 'till the 28th. You will not find it difficult to imagine, that in the particular circumstances of your community, at the existing juncture, I may have experienced embarrassment, from the nature of different applications, in relation to the office of Supervisor; and you will, I trust, do justice to the motives,

[14] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

[15] On January 10 Jefferson had reported to Washington that a consul was necessary in Denmark and recommended the appointment of Saaby in nearly the same language used by the President in this letter. A press copy of this report is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. The appointment was ratified by the Senate, March 7.

which have reluctantly prevented a compliance with your recommendation.[16] After a careful attention to all the considerations, which would naturally enter into the subject, I have concluded to nominate Mr. Morris,[17] the late Chief Justice of your State, to the Office.

This nomination has been unsolicited by that Gentleman, or by any friend of his; nor have I any evidence, that it will be acceptable to him; or of his inclinations in the event which is pending: But, in adverting to his long and faithful public services, to his real sacrifices, and to his present, as I am informed, distressful retirement, I found a combination of strong inducements to direct my choice towards him.

I beg you to be assured of the sincere esteem and affectionate regard, with which I am &c.[18]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, March 6, 1792.

Gentlemen: Mr. Jefferson, in a letter which he writes to you this day, will enter fully into the points touched upon in your letters to me of the 21st of december, and of the 7th. 9th. 10 and 21st of January, and Mr. Johnson's letter of the 3d of february. I shall, therefore, do little more at present (being much pressed with other important public matters) than acknowledge the receipt of these letters, and state the reasons which caused me to delay writing to you 'till this time.

Until I received Mr. Johnson's letter, the expectation of seeing him here and conferring with him fully upon the several points mentioned in your letters kept me from writing; and

[16] Clinton had recommended Dr. William Tillotson.
[17] Richard Morris.
[18] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

since that time the unsettled state of matters with respect to Major L'Enfant has put it out of my power to write to you in a manner that would be decisive or satisfactory.

Matters are at length brought to a close with Maj. L'Enfant. As I had a strong desire to retain his services in this business, provided it could have been done upon a *proper footing* I gave him every opportunity of coming forward and stating the mode in which he would wish to be employed, always, however, assuring him that he *must* be under the controul of the Commissioners. But after keeping open the communication with him as long as any reasonable means could be found of doing it, he chose to close it by declaring that he could only act in a certain way, which way was inadmissable. His services, therefore, must be no longer calculated upon. Altho' his talens in designing, and the skill which he is said to possess in the execution of this kind of business, may occasion the loss of his services to be regretted; yet I doubt, upon the whole, whether it will be found in the end that his dereliction will be of real disservice to the undertaking; for so unaccommodating is his disposition that he would never suffer any interference in his plans, much less would he have been contented under the direction of the Commissioners. I am convinced, Gentlemen, that in your transactions with Major L'Enfant you must have suffered much from his temper; and if my approbation of your conduct in this business can afford you pleasure, you may be assured you have it. Even if I had no corroboration of the fact, I should be persuaded, from what I have known of his disposition on the recent occasion, that there would scarcely be a possibility of acting harmoniously in concert with him.

It is impossible to say with any certainty when the plan of the City will be engraved. Upon Major L'Enfant's arrival in this place in the latter part of december, I pressed him in the

most earnest manner to get the plan ready for engraving as soon as possible. Finding there was no prospect of obtaining it through him (at least in any definite time) the matter was put into Mr. Ellicott's hands to prepare about 3 weeks ago. He has prepared it; but the engravers who have undertaken to execute it, say it can not certainly be done in less than 2, perhaps not under 3 months.

There shall, however, be every effort made to have the thing effected with all possible dispatch.

As Mr. Jefferson has in his letter mentioned the particular objects to which your attention will probably be turned, I shall only observe here that I am impressed in the strongest manner, with the necessity there is of carrying on this business with as much vigour as the nature of the thing will admit. It has been observed by intelligent and well informed men, [(not however of the class most friendly to the measure)] that the whole success of the federal City depends upon the exertions which may be made in the ensuing season towards completing the object; for such is now the state of the public mind on this subject that it appears as it were in an equilibrium, and will preponderate either for or against the measure as the progress of the thing may be. And there are not wanting those who, being interested in arresting the business, will leave no means unessayed to insure it. By the proposition for a loan which Mr. Jefferson transmits to you, you will see what prospect you have of funds in addition to those to be depended upon from the two states.[19] And in your exertions, Gentlemen, to make the best of these I have the fullest confidence.

[With great esteem I am etc.][20]

[19] Maryland and Virginia.

[20] In the *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress. The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

*APPROVAL OF A COMPETITION

[March 6, 1792.]

I see nothing wanting but to fill the blanks, and that I presume the Comrs. will do, unless, after the words "destination of the building" is added "and situation of the ground" for I think particular situation wd. require parlr. kind or shaped buildings.[21]

To THE CHIEF JUSTICE

(Private)

Philadelphia, March 6, 1792.

My dear Sir: Your favor of the 27th. of January came safely to hand (but not by Judge Cushing)[22] as did your letter of the 23d. of September, for which I thank you.

It is with pleasure I congratulate you on the increase of your family, and the restoration of health to Mrs. Jay, both of which we have heard.

Mr. B——'s[23] motion, alluded to in your letter of the 27th. of January,[24] is only the prelude, I conceive, to what is intended to follow, as occasions shall present themselves.

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[21] Written in pencil at the bottom of Jefferson's draft of an advertisement to be issued by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia of "A Premium" or prize "of 500 dollars, or a Medal of that value, at the option of the party" for the best, approved plan "for a President's house" before July 20, 1792. This draft is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress. A press copy of another draft is filed in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress under date of Mar. 6, 1792.

[22] William Cushing.

[23] Aaron Burr, Seantor from New York.

[24] Jay had written (January 27): "Mr. Burr's motion gave me much Concern, and the Issue of it much Satisfaction. I regret that the Senate were not more unanimous. Similar attempts in future may be encouraged by their having divided so equally on the Question. It is in my opinion a Question very important in its Consequences; so much so, that if the Senate should make and retain that Encroachment on the Executive, I should despair of seeing the Government well administered afterwards." Jay's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. The matter, probably, was the appointment of Ministers abroad. *Cf. Executive Journal*, Dec. 22, 1791–Jan. 16, 1792.

I am persuaded your goodness will excuse my not having acknowledged the receipt of your letters, of the above date, at an earlier period. Many matters of a public nature have pressed upon me, some of them not very pleasant ones.

My best wishes, in which Mrs. W—— cordially unites, are presented to Mrs. Jay and yourself, and with affectionate regard I am etc.[25]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

[March 6, 1792.]

The catalogue of complaints, enclosed, is long.

May not our loss of the Indian trade, the participation of it I mean, and the expence and losses sustain'd by the Indian War, be set against Mr. H——[26] list of grievances,[27] in behalf of the B——[28] Merchants, as well as, by taking our Slaves away depriving us of the means of paying debts.[29]

To THE SENATE

United States, March 7, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I submit to your consideration the Report of the Secretary of State which accompanies this,[30] stating the reasons for extending the negociation proposed at Madrid to the subject of commerce,[31] and explaining under the

[25] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[26] George Hammond, British Minister to the United States.

[27] Hammond's complaints are contained in his letter and an appendix of March 5 to the Secretary of State, a press copy of which is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[28] British.

[29] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[30] A press copy of the report of Jefferson (March 7), together with the articles proposed for insertion by Gardoqui, are in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. They are printed in the *Executive Journal*.

[31] On March 16 the Senate consented to the proposed extension of powers.

form of instructions to the Commissioners lately appointed to that Court, the principles on which commercial arrangements with Spain might, if desired on her part, to be acceded to on ours: And I have to request your decision, whether you will advise and consent to the extension of the powers of the Commissioners as proposed, and to the ratifycation of a treaty which shall conform to those instructions, should they enter into such a one with that Court.[32]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

[March 7, 1792.]

The enclosed,[33] sent for Mr. Jeffersons perusal, corroborates the idea held out in the communication of Mr. —— H——d.[34]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Thursday Morning [March 7, 1792.]

Dear Sir: I do not recollect whether any notice has been taken in your letter to the Commrs. of Mr. Johnsons suggestion of bringing the Canal navigation[35] to the City. The ascertainment of the practicability ought by all means to be encouraged. Yours.[36]

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[32] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[33] The inclosure was an extract from Samuel Kirkland's letter of Feb. 25, 1792, which is copied by Jefferson on this letter from Washington: "The British at Niagara, hold out this idea, that the U. S. will not be able to refund the confiscated tory estates; therefore a new boundary line must be made betwixt the two powers, and that this line will probably be from the Genesee to the Ohio, and that their Ambassedor Mr Hammond is sent over to negociate the business. this is talked of as a serious matter at the garrison and it's vicinity."

[34] George Hammond.

This letter is from the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[35] The Potomac Company canal.

[36] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, March 8, 1792.

Dear Sir: In a short letter which I wrote to you by the last Post,[37] I promised a lengthy one by the Post of tomorrow; but such is my present situation that I must pass by some things and be more concise on others than I intended.

That Mr. Johnsons health did not permit him to come to this City as he proposed and was expected, is matter of exceeding great regret, as many things relative to the Federal district, the City, and the public buildings might have been more satisfactorily arranged; and delays avoided; but as there is no contending against acts of Providence we must submit, as it becomes us so to do and endeavor to recover the time lost, in the best manner we can.

That the Commissioners have had more than a little trouble and vexation with Majr. L'Enfant, I can readily conceive (if your representation of the fact had been wanting) from the specimens he has given of his untoward temper since his arrival in this City. And I can as easily conceive that in proportion to the yieldings of the Commissioners his claims would extend. Such upon a nearer view, appears to be the nature of the Man!

Every advantage will be taken of the Majors dereliction. A vigorous counteraction therefore is essential. If he does not come forward openly to declare it, *his* friends and the *enemies* to the *measure,* will do it for him, that he found matters were likely to be conducted upon so pimping a scale, that he would not hazard his character or reputation on the event under the controul he was to be placed. It is even said (but nothing has

[37] Washington had written (March 7): "By the Post on friday . . . I will write to you (if I can) more fully: for I am at present exceedingly pressed." This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers.*

appeared yet) that he means to publish this to the world. The half friends to the New City (if this is not allowing them more than their due) undertake to predict that, it now stands in equilibrio. that a feather will turn the scale either way. If say they the matter is pushed with vigor, and upon a plan commensurate to the design, and the publics expectation, the permanent Seat of the Government will be fixed on the Potowmack. On the other hand, if inactivity and contractedness should mark the steps of the Commissioners of that district, whilst action on the part of this State[38] is displayed in providing commodious buildings for Congress &ca. the Government will remain where it now is. That exertions will be made by this State to effect the purpose, there can be no doubt. A late message from the Governor to the Assembly proposing a certain grant of money for the erection of the House designed for the President is one, among other instances which have occurred.

It would have been very agreeable to me, that you should have shewn the copies of the letters I had written to Major L'Enfant, declaratory of the subordinate part he was destined to act under the Commissioners. It does not appear to have been so understood by the Proprietors, from the sentiments expressed by Mr. Walker (while he was in this City) for when he was told in what explicit language Major L'Enfant was given to understand this, he seemed quite surprised. You did me no more than justice when you supposed me incapable of duplicity in this business. I have had but one idea on the subject from the beginning; nor but one design, and that was to convince the Major of the subordinate part he was destined to act in it. I was obliged, as you have seen, to use stronger and stronger language as I found his repugnance encreased 'till he was told, in even

[38] Pennsylvania.

harsh terms, that the Commissioners stood between him and the P—— of the U. States and that it was from them *alone* he was to receive directions.

The doubts, and opinion of others with respect to the permanent seat have occasioned no change in my sentiments on the subject. They have always been, that the plan ought to be prosecuted with all the despatch the nature of the case will admit; and that the public buildings in size, form, and elegance, shou'd look beyond the present day. I would not have it understood from hence that I lean to extravagance. A chaste plan sufficiently capacious and convenient for a period not *too* remote, but one to which we may *reasonably* look forward, would meet my idea in the Capitol. For the Presidents House, I would design a building which should also look forward, but execute no more of it at present than might suit the circumstances of this Country when it shall be first wanted. A plan comprehending more may be executed at a future period when the wealth, population, and importance of it shall stand upon much higher ground than they do at present.

How, and when you will be able to obtain plans of such buildings is with yourselves to decide on. No aid I am persuaded is to be expected from Major L'Enfant in the exhibition; rather, I apprehend, opposition and a reprobation of every one designed by any other however perfect.

The part, which, Mr. Walker, by your letter to me, and another from Mr. Johnson to Mr. Jefferson, appears to have acted, surprises me exceedingly; his interest in the City, and the discernment with which he seems to have viewed the measure, in the early stages of it, would have lead me to have drawn a different conclusion. The calumnies which seem to have been traced to him and the Major are more to be despised than to be

regarded or resented. More than once you will remember I have given it to you as my opinion, that it would be by side-blows and indirect attack that attempts would be made to defeat the Law. To sow the Seeds of dissension, jealousy, and distrust, are among the means that will be practiced. There is a current in this City which sets so strongly against every thing that relates to the Federal district that it is next to impossible to stem it. To this cause is to be ascribed the backwardness of the engraving. Danger from them is to be apprehended; and, in my opinion, from no other. The best antidote against them is perseverance, and vigorous exertion on the part of the Commissioners; and good temper, and mutual forbearance with one another, on the part of the proprietors; for who are so much interested in the success, and progress of the measure as they?

I see no necessity for diminishing the Square allotted for the Presidents House, &ca. at this time. It is easier at all times to retrench, than it is to enlarge a square; and a diviation from the plan in this instance would open the door to other applications, which might perplex, embarrass and delay business exceedingly; and end, more than probably, in violent discontents.

Where you will find a character qualified in all respects for a Superintendant, I know not; none present themselves to my view; yet, one must be had. A better than Mr. Ellicott for all matters, at present, can not be had. No one I presume, can lay out the ground with more accuracy, lay out the squares, and divide them into lots better. He must understand levelling also perfectly, and has, I suppose competent skill in the conducting of Water. Beyond these, your opportunities to form an opinion of him must exceed mine. Whether he is a man of arrangement, is sober, and Industrious, are matters unknown to me. I believe he is obliging, and he would be perfectly

Subordinate. What he asks, five dollars a day (if Sundays are included) seems high, but whether a fit character can be had for less I am unable to say. . . .[39]

The Plan of the City having met universal applause (as far as my information goes) and Major L'Enfant having become a very discontented man, it was thought that less than from 2500 to 3000 dollars would not be proper to offer him for his services: instead of this, suppose five hundred guineas and a Lot in a good part of the City was to be substituted? I think it would be more pleasing, and less expensive. I have never exchanged a word with Mr. Roberdeau since he came to this place, consequently, am unable to relate, what his expressions have been, or what his ideas are; he lives with, and more than probably partakes of the sentiments of Majr. L'Enfant; unless the dismission of the latter may have worked a change in them, which, not unlikely, is the case with both; as I can hardly conceive that either of them contemplated the result of their conduct.

Although what I am going to add may be a calumny, it is nevertheless necessary that you should be apprised of the report that Colo. Deakins applies the public money in his hands to speculative purposes; and is unable, at times, to answer the call of the workmen, an instance has been given. There are doubts also of the sincerity of Mr. Frans. Cabot. Of both these matters you are to judge from the evidence before you. I have nothing to charge either with, myself; these hints are disclosed in confidence, to place you on your guard.

The idea of importing Germans and Highlanders, as Artizans and labourers, has been touched upon in the letter from Mr. Jefferson to the Commissioners. It is, in my opinion worthy

[39] At this point a marginal insertion is indicated; but the blurred condition of the press copy renders it indecipherable.

of serious consideration in an œconomical point of view, and because it will contribute to the population of the place. The enclosed extract of a letter from General Lincoln to Mr. Lear is sent, that you may see the prospect in that Quarter.

The General is a candid undesigning man, in whose word much confidence may be placed; and having been in this City, and laterly returnd from it, has had opportunities of making the remarks which are contained in the extract.

I began with telling you, that I should not write a lengthy letter, but the result has contradicted it. It is to be considered as a private letter, in answer to yours of the 26th Ulto; but it may under that idea be communicated to your associates in Office. They, and you, must receive it, blotted and scratched as you find it, for I have not time to copy it. It is now ten oclock at night (after my usual hour for retiring to rest) and the mail will be closed early tomorrow morning. Sincerely &c.[40]

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 9, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I now lay before you a general Account rendered by the Bankers of the United States at Amsterdam of the payments they had made between the 1st of July 1790 and 1791 from the funds deposited in their hands for the purposes of the Act

[40] From a press copy in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On March 9 Washington inclosed this letter in a note to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia: "The enclosed is an answer to a private letter from Doctr. Stuart, It relates as his did wholly to the affairs under your direction; and may therefore be opened by either of the Comrs. but no other, as there are some confidential communications to them *alone*." This letter is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers*.

providing the means of intercourse between the United States and foreign nations, and of the balance remaining in their hands; together with a letter from the Secretary of State on the subject.[41]

*OPINION OF THE GENERAL OFFICERS

[March 9, 1792.]

The following list [42] contain the names of all the General Officers now living, and in this Country, as low as *actual* Brigadiers inclusively.[43] Except those who it is conjectured would not, from age, want of health, and other circumstances come forward by any inducements that could be offered to them, and such as ought not to be named for the important trust of Commander in Chief.

Major General Lincoln.

Sober, honest, brave and sensible, but infirm; past the vigor of life, and reluctantly (if offered to him) would accept the appointment.

Majr. Genl. Baron de Steuben

Sensible, Sober and brave; well acquainted with Tactics and with the arrangement and discipline of an Army. High in his ideas of Subordination; impetuous in his temper; ambitious, and a foreigner.

Majr. Genl. Moultree.

Brave, and it is believed accommodating in his temper. Served the whole of last War; and has been an Officer in the

[41] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. A press copy of the letter of the Secretary of State (March 7) and of the account mentioned is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Conress.

[42] From whom the Commander in Chief of the Army is to be selected.

[43] This memorandum was considered at the Cabinet meeting of March 9, at which Hamilton, Jefferson, and Knox were present. It was, of course, drawn up previous to that date.

proceeding one, at least had been engaged in an Expedition against the Cherokees; having defeated them in one or two considerable actions. What the resources, or powers of his mind are; how active he may be; and whether temperate or not, are points I cannot speak to with decision because I have had little or no opportunities to form an opinion of him.

Brigadier (but by Brevet Majr General) McIntosh.

Is old and inactive; supposed to be honest and brave. Not much known in the Union, and therefore would not obtain much confidence, or command much respect; either in the Community or the Army.

Majr. General (by Brevet) Wayne.

More active and enterprising than Judicious and cautious. No œconomist it is feared. Open to flattery; vain; easily imposed upon; and liable to be drawn into scrapes. Too indulgent (the effect perhaps of some of the causes just mentioned) to his Officers and men. Whether sober, or a little addicted to the bottle, I know not.

Majr. Genl. (by Brevet) Weedon.

Not supposed to be an Officer of much resource though not deficient in a competent share of understanding; rather addicted to ease and pleasure; and no enemy it is said to the bottle; never has had his name brot. forward on this acct.

Majr. Genl. (by Brevet) Hand.

A sensible and judicious man; his integrity unimpeached; and was esteemed a pretty good Officer. But, if I recollect rightly, not a very active one. He has never been charged with intemperance to my knowledge; His name has rarely been mentioned under the present difficulty of chusing an Officer to comm'd., but this may, in a great measure, be owing to his being at a distance.

Majr. Genl (by Brevet) Scott.

Brave and means well; but is an officer of inadequate abilities for extensive command; and, by report, is addicted to drinking.

Majr. Genl (by Brevet) Huntington.

Sober, sensible and very discreet. Has never discover'd much enterprise; yet, no doubt has ever been entertained [*sic*] of his want of spirit, or firmness.

Brigadier General Wilkenson.

Is, *by brevet* Senr to those whose names follow; but the appointment to this rank was merely honorary. and as he was but a short time in Service, little can be said of his abilities as an Officer. He is lively, sensible, pompous and ambitious; but whether sober, or not, is unknown to me.

Brigadier General Gist.

Little has been said of his qualifications as a General Officer. His activity, and attention to duty is somewhat doubtful; tho' his spirit, I believe, is unimpeached.

Brigadier General Irvine.

Is sober, tolerably sensible and prudent. It is said he is an œconomist; and supported his authority whilst he was entrusted with a seperate command; but I have no recollection of any circumstance that marks him as a decidedly good, or indifferent Officer.

Brigadier General Morgan.

Has been fortunate, and has met with eclat. Yet there are different opinions with respect to his abilities as an Officer. He is accused of using improper means to obtain certificates from the Soldiers. It is said he has been (if the case is not so now) intemperate: that he is troubled with a palpitation which often lays him up; and it is not denied that he is illiterate.

Brigadier General Williams.

Is a sensible man, but not without vanity. No doubt, I believe, is entertained of his firmness: and it is thought he does not want activity; but it is not easy, where there is nothing conspicuous in a character, to pronounce decidedly upon a Military man who has always acted under the immediate orders of a superior Officer; unless he had been seen frequently in Action. The discipline, interior œconomy and police of his Corps is the best evidence one can have of his talents in this line and of this, in the case of Genl. Williams I can say nothing; as he was appointed a Brigadier after he left the Northern to join the Southern army. But a material objection to him is delicate health (if there has been no change in his Constitution), for he has gone to the Sweet Springs two or three years successively in such bad health as to afford little hope of his ever returning from them.

Brigadier General Rufus Putnam.

Possesses a strong mind, and is a discreet man. No question has ever been made (that has come to my knowledge) of his want of firmness. In short, there is nothing conspicuous in his character. And he is but little known out of his own State, and a narrow circle.

Brigadier Genl (by Brevet) Pinckney.

A Colonel since Septr. 16th. 1776; but appointed a Brigadr. by brevet at the close of the War, *only*. In this gentleman many valuable qualities are to be found. He is of unquestionable bravery. Is a man of strict honor, erudition and good sense: and it is said has made Tactics a study. But what his spirit for enterprise is, whether active or indolent; or fitted for arrangement, I am unable to say, never having had any opportunity to form a judgment of his talents as a Military character. The capture of Charleston put an end to his Military Services: but his junr. Rank, and being little known in this part of the Union,

are the two considerations most opposed to him; particularly the latter, as it is more than probable his being a prisoner prevented his promotion: which ought not to be any bar to his ranking as a Brigadier from the time that others of his standing as a Colonel, were promoted.

The above and foregoing closes the list of *all the General Officers* who as has been observed from age, want of health, disinclination, or peculiar circumstances, can be brought into view; from whom to chuse an Officer to command the Troops of the U. S.

If from either of the three Major Generals, which have been mentioned; or from those made so by *brevet,* the Commander of the Troops should be taken, no junior Officer can decline serving on the score of Rank; although he may desire, and have had expectations of being, first in command, himself.

Under this idea, and upon the principle of distribution, the arrangement of the Commanding Officer, and those next in grade to him, may be placed in the following points of view.

Commander

Lincoln or . . . Moultrie.

Under either of these Major Generals might serve as Brigadiers:

Wayne unless by being a Majr. Genl. by brevet, and seeking the command himself he should recoil at it.

Morgan for one of the above reasons would also revolt viz. command or Williams or Darke.[44]

Wilkinson

Pickens[45]

Brooks[46]

[44] William Darke.
[45] Andrew Pickens.
[46] John Brooks.

If Lincoln commands, Brooks cannot be appointed and if Moultree commands, the same will happn. to Pickens.

If Pennsylvania gives the Commanding Officer, and he is of the Rank (by brevet) of Majr. Generl; the above arrangement is equally applicable on the principle of distribution, and as unexceptionable on the score of rank. But if, in the first case, Wayne, Morgan and Williams refuse to serve, and in the Second, the two last do it unless it be as Commander; then some others, junr. in dates of Commission, or of inferior rank, must be resorted to.

If upon a full view of characters, and circumstances, General Pinckney should be deemed the most eligable for the command; it would be a fruitless attempt, and a waste of time to propose to those Officers who have been his Seniors, to engage again subordinately; especially if they have been his seniors in the line of *Colonels:* and here I would draw a line which I think is a just one, and that is, that his Colonels and not his Brigadrs. Commission, ought to decide his Rank as a General Officer, because it would be hard upon him to suffer in it, on acct. of his captivity; when motives of policy and not demerit, suspended (as may fairly be presumed) his promotion during that period: but why, when it did take place, Rank was not (to a certain antecedent date) restord I am unable to conceive.

If this be fair reasoning (and I really think it is) neither Morgan nor Williams would have ground to object against serving under Pinckney; but as it is more than probable they will look to what is, rather than to what ought to be; a difficulty would be made on the subject of Rank; especially if there is any dereliction in them to the Service in any other character than that of Commanding it, and therefore it would be expedient perhaps to look for Officers of junr. Rank, and in that case may come in as

Brigadiers

Wilkenson, whose rank is very questionable
Darke,—or Howard[47]
Willet,[48]—or Smith[49]
Brooks.

If Governor Lee should be prefered to the Command, then Officers of lower grades than any that have been mentioned, in the preceding pages, must be sought after, as all of those are greatly his Seniors, and there being, in my opinion but little ground to hope, that either the Military talents which he has displayed in the course of the War, or his present dignified Station, would reconcile any of them to act a Subordinate part; except it be Wilkenson; who, as has been observed before, from having been but a short time in Service, and quitting it at an early period of the War, would have but little or no cause to complain. As also Pickins, who has never been in the Continental line. The arrangemt. wd then be, in this case.

Govr. Lee . . . Commander
Brigadrs.—Wilkenson, Pickens. [N.Y.S.L.]

[47] John Eager Howard.
[48] Marinus Willett.
[49] William Stephens Smith.

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